75¢

Hafa Adai!

Merry Christmas!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 255
FRIDAY DECEMBER 23, 2016
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Torres declares long weekends. PAGE 7 | New heads of CPA appointed. PAGE 9

Runway lights to be replaced

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan airport's runway lighting system will be replaced with a new one in early 2017, according to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Orders for the replacement runway lights have already been placed and are expected to arrive by mid-February 2017, according to newly appointed CPA executive director Chris Tenorio.

"We have just signed a contract with a vendor, so we have placed the

See RUNWAY on Page 4

YEAR-END BASH
A *man'amko* helps cut a piece of cake during the group's annual end-of-the-year celebration at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan on Dec. 22.

See story on Page 11

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Charges dropped vs car chase suspect

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General voluntarily dropped yesterday the charges against the man who engaged police officers in a car chase that ended when the car overturned in Koblerville.

» Prosecutor says DPS has not provided them with reports

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. said the case is still being investigated and the Department of Public Safety has yet to provide the OAG with a report.

"Therefore, the Commonwealth voluntarily dismisses the case without prejudice.

See CHARGES on Page 4

'Intervenors should share Yamamoto cost'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A federal judge denied yesterday the request of M/V *Luta* custodian National Maritime Services Inc. to direct Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto to pay $72,462.33 for custodian services from October to December 2016.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood ruled that under the dis-

See INTERVENORS on Page 4

Terminated employee alleges illegal practices

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A terminated Best Sunshine International, Ltd. employee has alleged that the company is engaging in illegal practices but the company, which says it knows nothing about the complaint yet, said it will vigorously defend itself.

Danny Ewing, the former Best

See TERMINATED on Page 4

NOTICE

There will be no issue of *Saipan Tribune* on Dec. 26, 2016 and Jan. 2, 2017.

Happy holidays!

INSIDE

ASIA
Rahul Gandhi accuses Prime Minister Narendra Modi of accepting bribes.

PAGE 28

WORLD
Hundreds of rebel fighters and civilians are bused out of war-ravaged Aleppo.

PAGE 29

SCIENCE & TECH
Tis the season to be jolly—but it's also the season for identity theft and credit card fraud.

PAGE 30

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

‘Break the cycle of fear’

JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In a first for the Commonwealth, police personnel recently attended a two-day training that aims to raise their awareness, understanding, and sensitivity of issues relating to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and intersex community. The training was held last Tuesday and Wednesday at the Department of Public Safety academy in Susupe.

Helping the LGBTQI community break the cycle of fear and be judged in reporting hate crimes is one of the aims of the training, said U.S. Attorney General for the Districts of Guam and CNMI Alicia Limtiaco.

“That’s why we’re doing this. We’re trying to break the cycle of people who feel that they can’t trust or don’t feel safe in reporting [hate crimes],” said Limtiaco. “We want to get the message out that it is important to report [hate crimes]. We want to make sure that we train our law enforcers, so they are sensitized and become aware [of these situations]. So that when they go out there and interact with the community, it would show that they would not judge people and they would treat everyone professionally regardless of whoever you are. Because they took an oath, to serve the public and keep the community safe.”

See BREAK on Next Page

Hana
HEALTH MASSAGE
Holiday Promo
Buy $100 Gift Certificate just for $90
SERVICES OFFERED:
■ Cupping Jar ■ Table Shower & Body Scrub Spa ■ Aroma Massage
ACROSS KANOA RESORT BESIDE EQUITABLE INSURANCE
MSV BUILDING, CHALAN KANOA ACROSS MOONLIGHT
OPEN: 10:00AM - 1:00AM
MONDAY-SUNDAY
Tel: 789-7778, 234-7773/7778

BREAK

From Page 2

Limtiaco said that raising the level of awareness on the LGBTQI community would help law enforcers like police officers in handling possible hate crimes. "Because people might be targeted because of who they are. People have prejudices and biases. There are some who want to hurt persons of different ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity."

"If that is the motive for hurting or killing someone, then that is a possible hate crime. Experiences of our law enforcement officers and the LGBTQI community in the past several years have been shared in this training. There might have been hate crime elements to it, so we need to do more investigation."

Limtiaco said there are incidents and situations that were shared that were never reported, with the victims afraid that they would be judged because of who they are. She added police officers also learned relevant terms to prevent misconceptions and misunderstandings from those reporting certain hate crimes.

"They learned how to build trust so that members of the LGBTQI community could also trust them. They also were taught relevant terms, so as to understand certain misconceptions and misunderstandings, strategies and resources," said Limtiaco, who added that they are also planning to hold a similar event in other sectors of the community.

"We also plan to go next to the school system, along with the public and private sectors. Bullying had become an issue both in Guam and the CNMI, especially for LGBTQI youth. But we're trying to address that, especially on social media. We're doing outreach to explain the power and influence social media holds."

She added that discussions with different members of both communities in Guam and the CNMI would continue. "We're going to continue the discussions with our law enforcement officers and the entire community. Some people don't know a hate crime when it is happening. Sometimes it may characterize a simple type of criminal activity."

Learning about LGBTQI issues

DPS spokesperson Jason Tarkong, who was among the police officers who attended the two-day training, said the seminar is in line with the government's program to educate police officers on how to properly handle issues involving the LGBTQI community.

"These include interview skills and recognizing how they would want to be referred to. You better be careful what you do while you are on duty or off duty, and how would you approach certain situations. We want to make sure our officers are trained properly in what terminologies to use and what not to use because it would make a difference and it is a violation of federal rights."

Tarkong said as police officers they must treat everybody equally, "regardless of race, gender, religion, and sexual orientation. We need to respect those rights and we need to treat them properly and that is the purpose of this two-day

See BREAK on Page 4

ARMATECH
Electric Motor Rewinding Services and Maintenance

Tel: (670) 234-8895 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

I ❤ MASSAGE
Special Local Promotion
$16.00 Body Massage 60 minutes
$23.00 Body & Feet Massage 90 Minutes
Business Hours:
11:00AM-1:00AM • Monday-Sunday
VISIT 10 TIMES - GET 1 FREE
For more information, please Call 234-9229 and ask for Wang
Located in Beach Road, Susupe, Joeten Commercial Building next to Zoom Cafe

SALE
UP TO 50%
T GALLERIA DFS
BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN MP 96950 | 1030 AM to 1030 PM
TGALLERIA.COM

Wishing you a joyous Holiday Season and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!
MCRIB® IS BACK
Try this tasty fan favorite slathered in tangy barbecue sauce and topped with slivered onions and tart pickles, all on a hoagie style bun.

Available for a limited time only.

HOLIDAY PIE
Creamy smooth, vanilla custard nestled in a flaky, buttery crust glazed with sugar and topped with rainbow sprinkles.
Available at Middle Road Store for a limited time only.
STORE HOURS:
Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS [24/7] • Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30am to 10:00pm
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 • Fax. 235-8760
E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

BREAK

From Page 2

Limtiaco said that raising the level of awareness on the LGBTQI community would help law enforcers like police officers in handling possible hate crimes. "Because people might be targeted because of who they are. People have prejudices and biases. There are some who want to hurt persons of different ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity."

"If that is the motive for hurting or killing someone, then that is a possible hate crime. Experiences of our law enforcement officers and the LGBTQI community in the past several years have been shared in this training. There might have been hate crime elements to it, so we need to do more investigation."

Limtiaco said there are incidents and situations that were shared that were never reported, with the victims afraid that they would be judged because of who they are. She added police officers also learned relevant terms to prevent misconceptions and misunderstandings from those reporting certain hate crimes.

"They learned how to build trust so that members of the LGBTQI community could also trust them. They also were taught relevant terms, so as to understand certain misconceptions and misunderstandings, strategies and resources," said Limtiaco, who added that they are also planning to hold a similar event in other sectors of the community.

"We also plan to go next to the school system, along with the public and private sectors. Bullying had become an issue both in Guam and the CNMI, especially for LGBTQI youth. But we're trying to address that, especially on social media. We're doing outreach to explain the power and influence social media holds."

She added that discussions with different members of both communities in Guam and the CNMI would continue. "We're going to continue the discussions with our law enforcement officers and the entire community. Some people don't know a hate crime when it is happening. Sometimes it may characterize a simple type of criminal activity."

Learning about LGBTQI issues

DPS spokesperson Jason Tarkong, who was among the police officers who attended the two-day training, said the seminar is in line with the government's program to educate police officers on how to properly handle issues involving the LGBTQI community.

"These include interview skills and recognizing how they would want to be referred to. You better be careful what you do while you are on duty or off duty, and how would you approach certain situations. We want to make sure our officers are trained properly in what terminologies to use and what not to use because it would make a difference and it is a violation of federal rights."

Tarkong said as police officers they must treat everybody equally, "regardless of race, gender, religion, and sexual orientation. We need to respect those rights and we need to treat them properly and that is the purpose of this two-day

See BREAK on Page 4

ARMATECH
Electric Motor Rewinding Services and Maintenance

Tel: (670) 234-8895 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

I ❤ MASSAGE
Special Local Promotion
$16.00 Body Massage 60 minutes
$23.00 Body & Feet Massage 90 Minutes
Business Hours:
11:00AM-1:00AM • Monday-Sunday
VISIT 10 TIMES - GET 1 FREE
For more information, please Call 234-9229 and ask for Wang
Located in Beach Road, Susupe, Joeten Commercial Building next to Zoom Cafe

SALE
UP TO 50%
T GALLERIA DFS
BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN MP 96950 | 1030 AM to 1030 PM
TGALLERIA.COM

Wishing you a joyous Holiday Season and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!
MCRIB® IS BACK
Try this tasty fan favorite slathered in tangy barbecue sauce and topped with slivered onions and tart pickles, all on a hoagie style bun.

Available for a limited time only.

HOLIDAY PIE
Creamy smooth, vanilla custard nestled in a flaky, buttery crust glazed with sugar and topped with rainbow sprinkles.
Available at Middle Road Store for a limited time only.
STORE HOURS:
Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS [24/7] • Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30am to 10:00pm
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 • Fax. 235-8760
E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

INTERVENORS

From Page 1

trict's Admiralty Rules, intervenors are obligated to cover expenses proportional to each plaintiff's share in the sum of all the claims.

She said under Rule E 10 and E 11 of the district's Admiralty Rules, all parties are responsible to share in the cost of custodial services, in proportion to the value of their claims, from the time the vessel is arrested.

Yamamoto may have a separate obligation under an agreement with National Maritime Services, the judge said, but "it is not for the court to enforce its terms."

Tydingco-Gatewood determined that the amount and proportion of each plaintiff's claims against M/V *Luta* is as follows: Yamamoto's claim of $1,982,000 represents 76.3 percent; Brochon et al's claim of $183,647.77 is 7.1 percent; Long Consulting's claim of $300,000 is 11.5 percent; and Norton Lilly International's claim of $131,801.10 is 5.1 percent.

The judge said any party may object in writing to this apportionment of shares.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the parties are ordered to jointly file notice to the court whether they agree to a settlement conference before Magistrate Judge Joaquin Manibusan.

At the hearing on the custodian services issue on Tuesday, some intervenors questioned the reasonableness of NMS' charges.

The judge said the intervenors knew or should have known that once they arrested M/V *Luta*, they should be on the hook for their portion of the custodian's fees and expenses.

She pointed out that NMS' pricing schedule is part of the agreement between Yamamoto and NMS and was published when Yamamoto filed the motion to appoint NMS as substitute custodian, and so was available to the intervenors at the time they intervened in the lawsuit.

The judge said she is inclined to find that the intervenors have waived any objection to the reasonableness of the pricing schedule by not objecting to it until several weeks' worth of charges had accrued.

The waiver, Tydingco-Gatewood said, would not extend to questions about the reasonableness of particular line items in the billings, hours spent rendering particular services, etc.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

RUNWAY

From Page 1

orders for all the lights and materials. It should be in by mid-February or even earlier. Once it arrives, our [electricians] will start working on it," said Tenorio.

According to Tenorio, the cost of materials alone is estimated at $150,000 but costs would be kept to a minimum because an on-board master electrician would handle the installation of the lights.

"Right now, we have no exact amount for how much it would cost to replace [the whole system]," he said.

The runway of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport would be running even during the installation of the new lights, said Tenorio.

"We are going to be working on replacing the lights during down time, [when] there are no active flights so that it does not hamper airport operations," he said.

The Saipan airport runway's down time is usually between 5pm and 12am.

CPA board member and airport facilities committee chair Barrie Toves wished for the materials to come sooner, but was satisfied with the placement of the order.

"I asked them if they could find a way to expedite the materials for sooner arrival. My concern there is because we don't want another shutdown of the runway. I am pretty much satisfied that they have already placed the orders," said Toves.

The Saipan airport's runway lights became inoperable thrice—on Aug. 5, Sept. 22, and Nov. 4—causing multiple flights to be pushed back by a few hours or more.

CHARGES

From Page 1

This is not done for purposes of delay, but so that justice may be done," said Glass in the government's request for dismissal.

Dismissal without prejudice means the government may re-file the case in the future.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted the government's request, saying it is the OAG that decides to dismiss the case and the court can only hear the case as filed by the OAG.

"Because the Office of the Attorney General has dismissed the charges, the case cannot move forward," Camacho said.

The judge vacated the preliminary hearing set for yesterday at 9am. He also vacated the motion for bail modification and arraignment.

A bystander took a video of a police officer, who appeared to be repeatedly hitting the suspect, ex-convict Vincent San Nicolas Norita, with a baton as he lay on the ground.

"In effect because of this dismissal, defendant Vincent San Nicolas Norita is a free man and shall be released forthwith from the custody of the Department of Corrections," said Camacho in his order.

Police said that Norita's car, a white 2011 Toyota Yaris four-door sedan with license plate ADZ-841 was speeding and nearly hit several pedestrians during the pursuit that happened in the evening last Dec. 9.

Norita, 31, was in crutches when taken before Camacho for a bail hearing last Dec. 12 on charges of theft of a vehicle, causing accidents, reckless driving, eluding a police officer, and receiving stolen items.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services disclosed that the driver, Norita, stated he had pain on the back of his right shoulder blade.

DFEMS said Norita, who was uncooperative, also sustained three small cuts on the forehead and a half-inch cut on the left leg.

When asked further questions, the driver allegedly refused to comply with medics.

Norita's passenger, Joe E. Ada, was also arrested for possession of a controlled substance, police said.

DPS has stated that it is investigating the police officer's alleged beating of Norita.

Police learned that Norita also stole a van, several license plates, and other items.

TERMINATED

From Page 1

Sunshine Live casino vice president of table games, accused the company of illegal practices in a lawsuit filed yesterday in federal court against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, which operates Best Sunshine Live, a casino and training platform that trains casino workers to ultimately service its permanent casino, now being built in Garapan.

In a statement last night, Imperial Pacific International said the company has not been served with Ewing's complaint and is unaware of his allegations.

"Nevertheless, the company respects Mr. Ewing's decision to file suit. It is the company's position that it follows all employment laws and regulations. As a result, the company will vigorously defend all lawsuits questioning its employment and business practices," the statement adds.

Ewing, through William M. Fitzgerald, is suing Imperial Pacific for wrongful termination in violation of public policy (anti-money laundering standards and regulations), (Fair Labor Standards Act and Occupation Safety and Health Act (OSHA) regulations), (immigration violations); wrongful failure to hire; and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Ewing is demanding unspecified damages.

Ewing claims to have worked in Las Vegas, Vietnam, and Tinian, before being employed by Imperial Pacific, for a total of more than 20 years in the gaming industry.

According to Fitzgerald in the complaint, Imperial Pacific recruited Ewing in 2015 to work as a director of table games and then promoted him on Nov. 30, 2015, as vice president of table games at the casino training facility in Garapan, before being terminated on Aug. 1, 2016.

Ewing claimed that Imperial Pacific allowed a customer to deposit $400,000 with the casino's cashier without the required Anti-Money Laundering identification.

Fitzgerald said casinos are required to enact strict anti-money laundering programs, but failed to implement or enforce an adequate AML program.

He said Ewing complained to Imperial Pacific and told them that they must enact and follow an effective AML program.

Fitzgerald said Imperial Pacific ignored Ewing's report and failed to take any action. He said Ewing's complaints and reports of violations were ignored and he was told to cease his complaints and that if he communicated these complaints, he would be terminated.

The lawyer said Imperial Pacific terminated Ewing because he complained about and refused to participate in illegal acts.

BREAK

From Page 3

training."

He added that there had been several incidents in the CNMI that are classified as hate crimes against LGBTQI community members. "There are several incidents that may be classified as hate crimes. Some have gone to court where the victims came forward. Some suspects have been arrested, charged, and were convicted."

"I knew of two particular cases…but [hate crime] is not that common here in the CNMI. The usual crimes that we have are assault and battery and domestic violence. Usually relationship type and it is very rare that we have hate crimes for LGBTQI. But does it happen? Yes."

Coalition

Pride Marianas board chair Frankie Eliptico said being part of the coalition is their way of continuing to raise awareness about the LGBTQI community. "We're providing voluntary service as part of a coalition where we assist in providing this kind of sensitivity training."

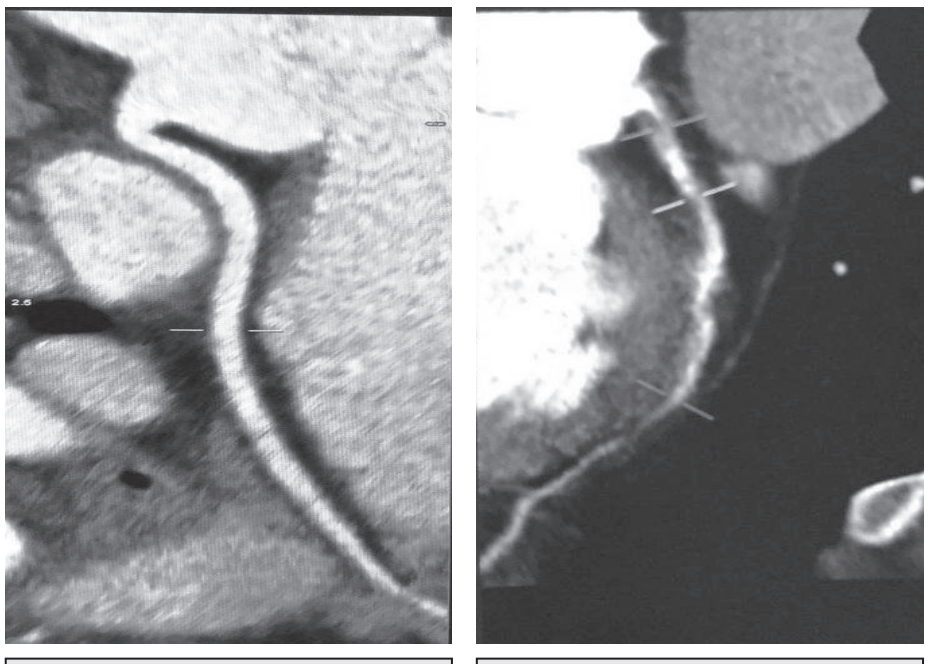
Pride Marianas, the U.S. Attorney's Office, DPS, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are members of the coalition.

Eliptico said the coalition also plans to go to other law enforcement agencies. "It started with DPS, but we're also going to hold similar training with other law enforcement agencies. We're just happy to be part of this activity."

"It is important to raise not only DPS but also the entire community's awareness of LGBT issues. This is the first time that this happened in the CNMI. We're glad that DPS made sure that they are at the forefront of this kind of training."

A picture is worth a thousand words!

Which one is YOUR coronary artery?



GOOD! | **Diseased...Heart Attack!**

Coronary angiogram

at

Pacific Medical Center

233-8100

Image from 2016 Christmas Village

Wishing you a very

Merry Christmas

- From your Friends and Family at IT&E

IT&E Life In Motion

Meet Santa Claus on Christmas Day
Take a photo with Santa on Christmas day at
McDonald's
Middle Road Store - From 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
Garapan Beach Rd. - From 12:30 Noon to 2:00 PM
Merry Christmas
From the Staff & Management of McDonald's

Group files Art. 12 lawsuit vs Anaks homeowners

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group of investors filed an Article 12 lawsuit against Anaks Ocean View Hill Saipan Homeowners' Association Ltd. and the Manuel S. and Luise P. Villagomez family trust.

Anaks Investors LLC, through Daniel T. Guidotti, asked the Superior Court to declare that the lease of land where Anaks is located is void because it violates Article 12.

Article 12 Section 1 of the CNMI Constitution restricts land ownership in the CNMI to "persons of Northern Marianas Descent."

As this developed, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja heard yesterday a motion to stop the Villagomez family trust from transferring lot EA 129-R1 to the Anaks Ocean View Hill Saipan Homeowners' Association Ltd. or any third party pending a court's decision that resolves the lawsuit.

After hearing the motion, Naraja extended the temporary restraining order until he issues his decision on the preliminary injunction. Last Dec. 13, Naraja granted Anaks Investors LLC's application for a TRO.

Guidotti said that, according to section 26 of the land lease, the Anaks homeowners association has a right of first refusal to any offer made to the Villagomez family trust by any third party that wants to purchase the reversionary interest in the lot.

Guidotti wants the court to stop the homeowners association and the trust from consummating any transaction premised on the lease's section 26 right of first refusal.

The homeowners association currently maintains and operates the Anaks units.

The Villagomez family trust is the current owner of the reversionary interest of lot EA 129-R1.

The homeowners association, through counsel Jennifer Dockter, has moved the court to dismiss the lawsuit. Dockter said that Anaks Investors LLC wishes to purchase a fee simple interest in real property and wants the court to help it accomplish that goal.

Dockter said the court cannot grant Anaks Investors LLC the relief it requests because the company cannot hold long term interests in real property in the CNMI.

Dockter said there is no case or controversy among Anaks Investors LLC, HOA, and the trust.

As such, she pointed out, Anaks Investors LLC has no standing to contest the ground lease.

Dockter said Anaks Investors LLC cannot bring a claim based on Article 12 because the Commonwealth law limits Article 12 actions to parties that had possession or interest in real property in which they seek to "reclaim" and plaintiff has nothing to "reclaim."

Dockter said even if Anaks Investors LLC could bring a cause of action under Article 12, the claim is time-barred and plaintiff failed to plead facts that establish an exception to the statute of limitations.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 17th birthday greetings go out to Arron! You have always made us proud. Our blessings and support are always with you. May God bless you with all you desire in life. Enjoy your special day! Greeting comes from Mom, Dad and entire family.

Torres declares long weekends

JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres declared two successive long weekends for all government departments and agencies, in time for the Christmas and the New Year celebrations next week.

Torres authorized department and activity heads to grant an administrative leave to all non-critical employees, starting today where government operations would be until 12pm.

Workers in critical agencies like the hospital and others that provide essential and emergency services are not included.

"As we head into the Christmas weekend and in appreciation for your hard work and dedication to the [CNMI] this past year, I am hereby authorizing non-critical employees of the Commonwealth's departments and agencies to take administrative leave after 12pm on Friday, Dec. 23," said Torres.

Today's schedule will again be followed next week, Dec. 30, for the New Year weekend. He also declared both Mondays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, as holiday after both Christmas and New Year's day fell on a weekend. Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 are both on a Sunday this year.

1 CMC 313 states: "If a legal holiday falls on a Saturday, it shall be celebrated on the preceding Friday. If a holiday falls on a Sunday, it shall be celebrated on the following Monday."

Torres, however, reminded essential agencies to make sure there are personnel for both days. "Please note that all department and activity heads must ensure that essential public services will not be disrupted."

"As we close out a productive 2016, I want to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year! May God bless you all with peace and joy in the year ahead," said Torres.

The Governor's Office has also released the list of legal holidays for 2017 starting with Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 16, followed by the President's Day on Feb. 20 while March 24 is Commonwealth Covenant Day.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Transfer station, landfill closed

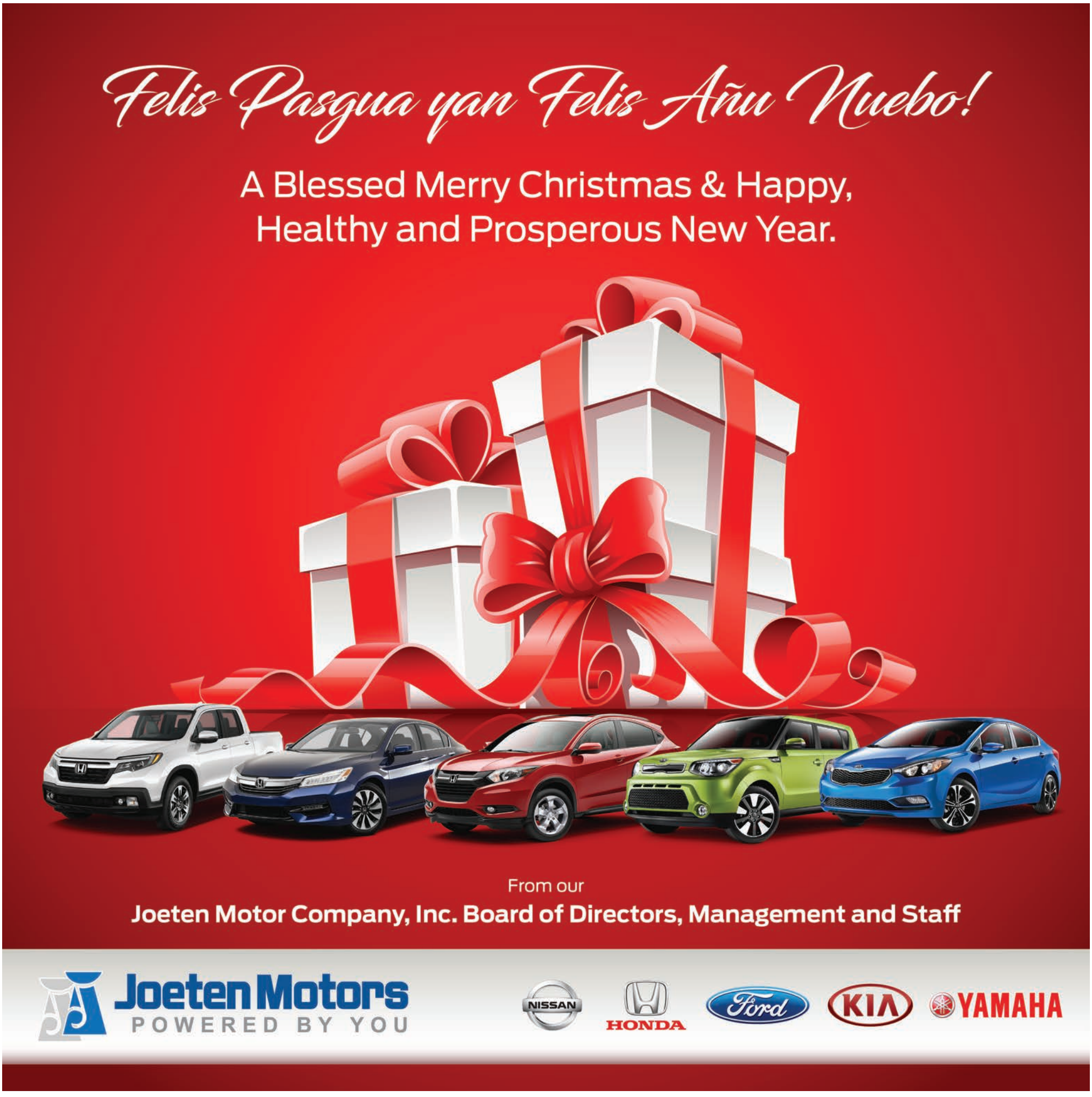
The Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill facilities will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26, 2016, and, again, on following Monday, Jan. 2, 2017. Both, Christmas Day (Dec. 25, 2016), and New Year's Day (Jan. 1, 2017), fall on a Sunday. When a CNMI legal holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday is designated as the day of observance. ***(PR)***

Air Force training at Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) on Dec. 22, from 8:30am to 10pm, and on Dec. 27-29 from 8am to 11:55pm. The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear of the areas during the date and times indicated. ***(PR)***

Water outages in Oleai, CK

Residents of Oleai and Chalan Kanoa will experience daily water service interruption until Dec. 23. The interruptions will be from 3am to 5am, as part of an ongoing leak detection program. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Cop. Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(PR)***



Mystery Jackpot is over $8,100
CLUB 88
The Best Little Gaming Club In Saipan
NEW YEAR'S EVE
Drawing
Free play for a year
* See Club 88 for details
& Win a brand new car
KIA Rio
RIO
Promo period:
Jan. 1, 2017 to March 31, 2017
Live local entertainment
Big Jackpots more often
HOT NEW GAMES!
Mystery Progressive Jackpots
OPEN: SUNDAY TO THURSDAY 12PM TO 4AM • FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 24 HOURS
Located at Ocean View Hotel in Garapan • www.facebook.com/club 88saipan
Like us on Facebook

Man gets 12 years for stabbing a taxi driver

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Security guard Carlos A. Ramangmou has pleaded guilty and was slapped with a 12-year prison sentence for stabbing a cab driver during a robbery on Saipan.

Ramangmou, 26, pleaded guilty on Tuesday afternoon to robbery as part of a plea deal. He also admitted to violating his probation.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Ramangmou to 20 years imprisonment for robbery, all suspended except for 12 years. Ramangmou shall serve the first nine years day for day without the possibility of parole. He was given credit for 115 days of time served.

Ramangmou was sentenced to 359 days for violating his probation.

Govendo said the sentence in both cases shall run concurrently. It means Ramangmou shall serve a total of 12 years in prison.

After serving his sentence, he will be placed on supervised probation for 10 years.

He was also directed to pay $5,027.53 in restitution, plus $100 in court costs and $1,000 in probationary service fee.

During his probation, Ramangmou will be prohibited from possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverages and controlled substances.

Last Sept. 21, the Office of the Attorney General charged Ramangmou with attempted first degree murder, robbery, kidnapping, aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and theft of vehicle. The OAG also filed a petition to revoke his probation in a 2012 criminal conviction.

Ramangmou and his counsel, Benjamin Petersburg, signed a plea deal with the government represented by assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda.

In exchange for pleading guilty to robbery, OAG dropped the remaining charges.

Ramangmou stabbed Jian Tao Hong in the head, face, hand, and ear with a sharp object, then took his cellular phone and $300 cash, on Aug. 27, 2016. Police said Hong avoided further attack by playing dead near Dandan.

Hong required medical attention for his injuries, which included lacerations on his thumb, index finger, facial area, scalp, ear, and earlobe.

Ramangou also admitted that he violated the terms and conditions of his probation.

According to police, it was Ramangmou's girlfriend, Felisha Ann Basa, who grabbed the victim's cellphone as Ramangmou poked him with a small knife on the neck, then continuously stabbed him on the right side of the face.

Laniyo said Ramangmou only stopped the stabbing when the victim played dead.

Basa was also arrested and charged.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
Saipan
COUNTRY CLUB
The First Golf Course in Saipan!
Temporary Club house Now Open
located on Middle Rd
(next to McDonalds)
Special limited time deals for Locals
18 holes for as low as $5 a round
Monthly memberships for as low as
$100 for unlimited play
(Walk-in Only)
Christmas gift certificates available;
Brand New Club House Coming Soon.
COME PLAY TODAY!
Web site www.saipancountryclub.com
Facebook (@saipancountryclub)
Phone: (670) 234-7300

New heads of CPA appointed

The Commonwealth Ports Authority appointed Wednesday two persons to be in charge of the government agency handling seaports and airports of the CNMI.

Chris Tenorio and Ed Mendiola were appointed CPA executive director and CPA deputy director, respectively, starting Christmas Day.

Tenorio has been the acting executive director in the past eight months while Mendiola is the current airport manager.

Tenorio has been working for CPA the past 21 years, while Mendiola will mark 22 years with CPA this February.

Tenorio would replace CPA executive director Mary Ann Lizama, who is said to be in Portland, Oregon receiving medical treatment for an undisclosed illness.

Tenorio was speechless upon receiving news of his promotion.

"I am happy and I think there is no change because I have been acting for eight months already. We just need to continue doing what we are doing," he said.

Tenorio said a lot of the programs that he envisioned for CPA have already been in action since being the acting executive director.

"We are going to keep adding more programs as we go along. Right now, I have a good team with me and I believe we are all working together as one. With that, we are going to be coming up with a lot of programs not only for our staff, but also for improvements of airports and seaports of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian," said Tenorio.

Mendiola was also keen with his new appointment. "It's a vigorous responsibility, but I'm willing to take that responsibility," he said.

When asked as to who would take over the position of airport manager, Mendiola said, "I would still be in charge of the airport until the time that a new airport manager will be hired. In the meantime, I would still be the airport manager."

Their appointment would take effect this Dec. 25.

CPA board chair Jose Lifoifoi believes both are qualified. "They are qualified because they have been with the CPA for quite some time," he said. "Chris started with the seaport before I assigned him to the airport. This decision came about because of health issues of previous CPA executive director Mary Ann Lizama," he said.

The CPA board voted unanimously to appoint the two to their respective positions after a motion made by CPA board member Roman Tudela and seconded by CPA board member Kimberlyn King-Hinds. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Tinian checkpoints

Tinian's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on the dates and time listed below:

■ Dec. 22, 2016, 8pm to 9:15pm: North and southbound lane on Broadway Road between Tinian Hardware and Natibu Park.

■ Dec. 22, 2016, 6pm to 7:15pm: West and eastbound lane on Suzuran Street between Natibu Park and Senior Citizen Center in San Jose Village.

■ Dec. 23, 2016, 6:30pm to 7:45pm: West and eastbound lane on Grand Street between JJ Mart and Department of Commerce.

■ Dec. 23, 2016, 8pm to 9:15pm: West and eastbound lane on Canal Street between Queen's and Tinian Hardware.

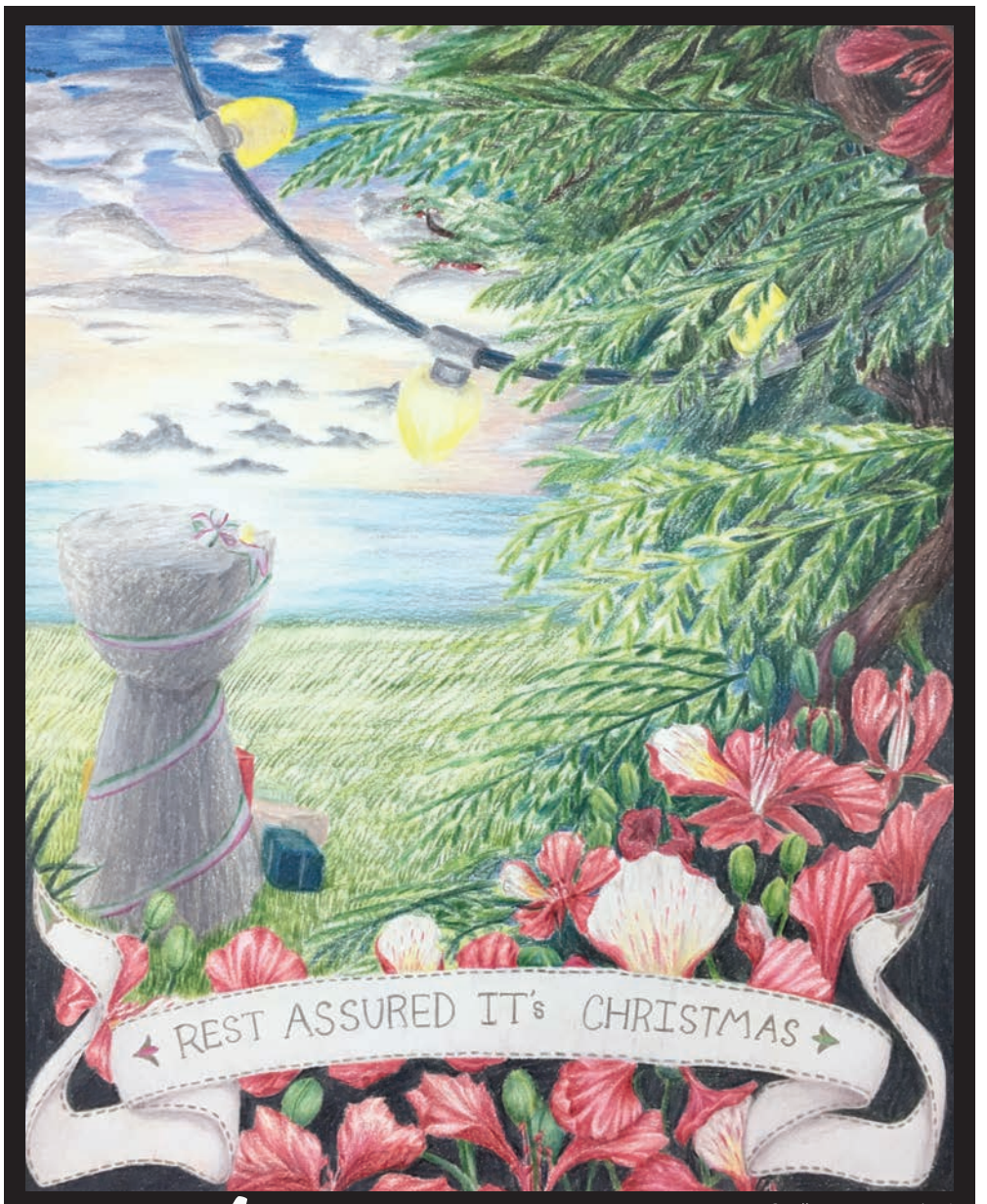
■ Dec. 29, 2016, 6pm to 7:15pm: North- and southbound lane on Broadway Road between Tinian Hardware and Natibu Park.

■ Dec. 29, 2016, 8pm to 9:15pm: West- and eastbound lane on Suzuran Street between Natibu Park and Senior Citizen Center in San Jose Village.

■ Dec. 30, 2016, 6:30pm to 7:45pm: West- and eastbound lane on Grand Street between JJ Mart and Department of Commerce.

■ Dec. 30, 2016, 8pm to 9:15pm: West and eastbound lane on Canal Street between Queen's and Tinian Hardware.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes). ***(DPS)***



Cerijean Mangubat
Marianas High School
Pacifica Art Contest 2016
Winner, Category Two

Merry Christmas

Offering coverage for the following:
HOME AUTO COMMERCIAL LIFE & HEALTH FIRE MARINE

General Agents for
TOKIO MARINE PACIFIC · Century Insurance · PACIFIC GUARDIAN LIFE

From the staff and management of
pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
Rest Assured.

Located at Joeten Center in Susupe. Tel: (670) 234-6267/7722/7310
www.pacificains.com

Celebrate the spirit of the season

May the magic and wonder of the holidays continue to fill your hearts with gifts of happiness and prosperity.

From our family at First Hawaiian Bank to yours, we wish you a happy holiday!

First Hawaiian Bank
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936

Member FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Trial of Ogumoro, co-defendant is delayed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has moved the jury trial of former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro and his co-defendant, Herman M. Manglona, from Jan. 9, 2017, to Feb. 6, 2017.

At a pre-trial conference on Tuesday afternoon, Govendo also set a new pre-trial conference for Jan. 24, 2017 at 1:30pm.

Govendo set the new trial date after Manglona failed to appear as he is currently in the Philippines for his wife's cervical cancer surgery. Assistant public defender Tillman Clark, counsel for Manglona, was present in court.

Ogumoro was with his counsel, Mark B. Hanson. Assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley appeared for the government.

The trial was originally set for March 14, 2016.

Ogumoro is charged with eight counts relating to theft by deception, misconduct in public office, conspiracy to commit theft by deception, removal of government property, and theft by unlawful taking.

Manglona is charged with conspiracy to commit theft by deception and receiving stolen property.

According to the allegations, Ogumoro brought a 1995 Toyota Tercel that belonged to DPS to a shop to be repaired using DPS funds totaling $2,500 and then sold the vehicle as "scrap" for only $50 to Manglona.

A DPS desktop computer repaired using $276 in DPS funds was allegedly later used in the office at True North Bar & Grill, which is owned by Ogumoro.

Ogumoro is currently serving a one-year prison term after being convicted of conspiracy to commit theft of services and theft of services pertaining to the shielding of then-attorney general Edward Buckingham from being served with penal summons in August 2012.

Then-associate judge David A. Wiseman also found Ogumoro guilty of five counts of misconduct in public office, one count of obstructing justice, and one count of criminal coercion.

Last March 30, Wiseman slapped Ogumoro with a one-year sentence. He started serving the prison term last April 13.

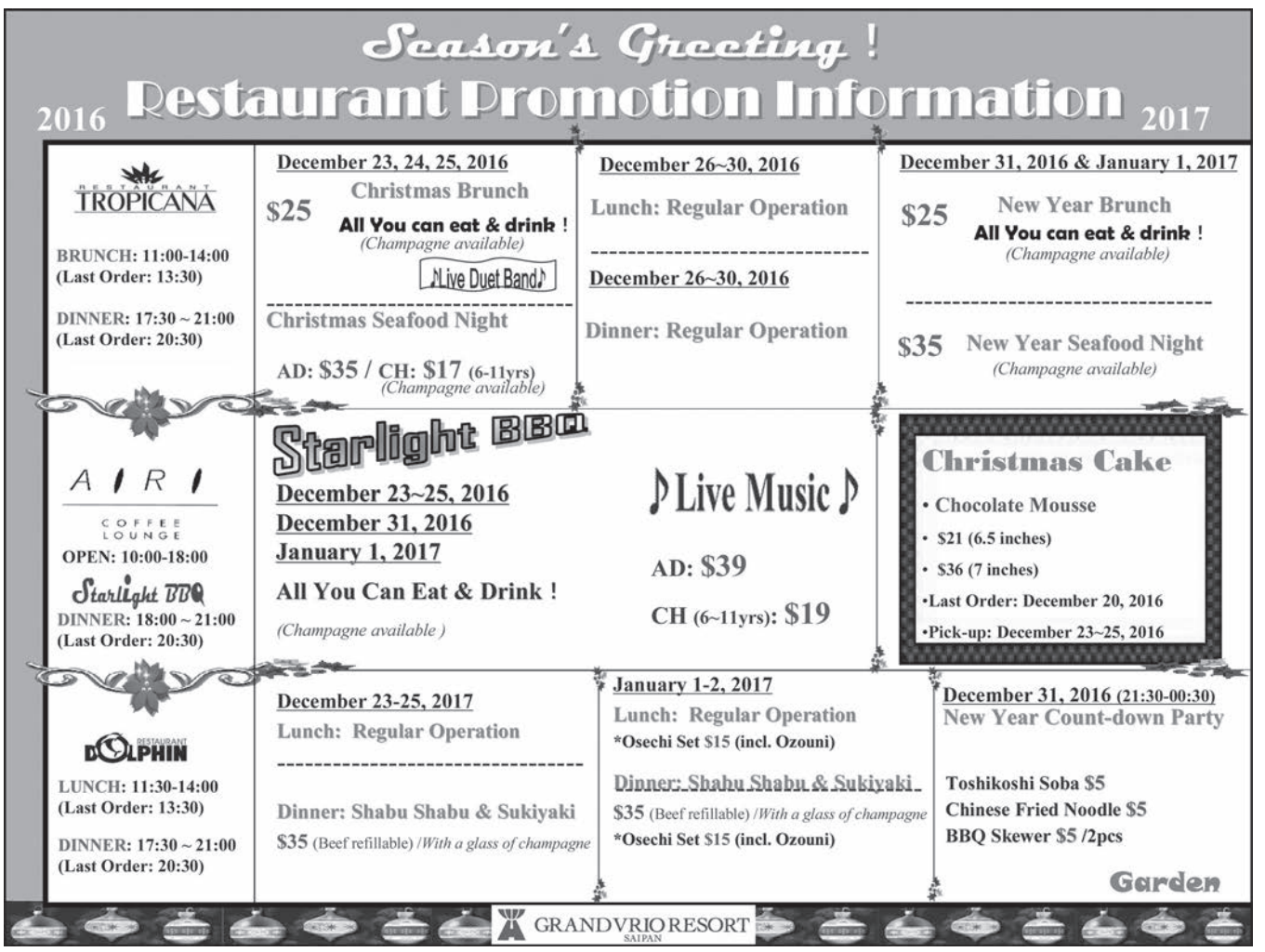
'Court lacks jurisdiction over Yamamoto's claims'

Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog asserts that the federal court lacks jurisdiction over the claims raised by Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto because the latter failed to verify his amended complaint.

In Hocog's reply to Yamamoto's opposition to his motion to dismiss the lawsuit, attorney Jeffrey A. Moots said Yamamoto acknowledges that his first complaint was not verified as required by the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions.

Moots argued that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has held that failing to verify a complaint filed pursuant to the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty deprives the court of jurisdiction.

Moots said if the failure to verify the first amended complaint's admiralty claims deprives the court of jurisdiction as the Ninth Circuit held, then the U.S. District Court for the NMI would lack jurisdiction over the remaining non-federal claims brought by Yamamoto.

Yamamoto is suing Hocog and the owners/operators of Luta Mermaid LLC, which owns the cargo ship M/V *Luta*, for allegedly refusing to pay back the $3.4 million that he put up for the vessel. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

NMTI unveils new culinary facility

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute unveiled Wednesday its newest facility for culinary students, promising to double the number of skilled workers in the community.

The ceremonial ribbon cutting was held Wednesday morning in the presence of NMTI staff and students as well as Bishop Ryan Jimenez, Hyatt Regency Saipan staff, and legislators.

NMTI CEO Agnes McPhetres said, "Before, we could only work with about 10 students at a time. With the new facility, we doubled it to 20-plus who can use the own space whenever we want."

"We are pleased with the construction. It just makes everything so much more convenient for our school and the students," McPhetres added.

The room offers state-of-the-art equipment, similar to those in hotels. Construction took about six months and was built by the school's own construction students.

Rita Cabrera, graduating student from NMTI, said, "I learned so much more than I thought I would have. It was a great choice to go into this school, because they really offer a lot of learning for anyone who chooses to enroll."

All culinary class instructors are from Hyatt.

Sen. Arnold Palacio said, "We want an increase in our economy and we certainly need a larger workforce. I believe this new facility will help us with that."

Tyrell Pauling, Hyatt's director of Food and Beverage, said, "With the culinary program they have here at NMTI, graduates receive leadership roles at Hyatt, with some even starting up their own business."

In total, the equipment for the new facility cost $100,000, not taking into account the construction costs.

"In you're interested in the culinary arts, come check us out. When you leave the class, you have all the tools you'll need for the workforce," Pauling said.

The culinary program has been in place since 2008, but plans for upgrading only began two years ago with the help of McPhetres and several others. Plans for a hotel restaurant program are also underway. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Shown is a picture of the new facility made ready for all culinary aspiring students who enroll in the Northern Marianas Trades Institute in Lower Base. The official unveiling was held on Dec. 21.

Man'amko throws yearend bash

With their year-end concert behind them, the *man'amko* relaxed with a celebration at the Carolinian utt in Garapan yesterday.

The *man'amko* brought their preferred dishes, along with a barbecue and a gift exchange amongst themselves.

Teresita Sorroza said, "Today is an exciting day considering we are not in the center. Instead of just sitting down in a building we get to be out in the open to enjoy some fresh air."

She credits the Office on Aging program for a new set of friends and family.

"I really enjoy living on island. …I feel connected with the people in the program and I can enjoy their company," Sorroza said.

Another *man'amko*, Pedro Dela Cruz said, "I really enjoy the party we're holding today. There's great food on the table and we can just relax, especially with the ocean right next to us."

Also present to make a few remarks was Man'amko Council president Rita Indalecio Reyes.

"I think this celebration is a very good idea. The party brings all of the *man'amko* out of the center and has everyone enjoying each other's company. It's a time to just enjoy, and that's what we're going to do," she said. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

PHI Pharmacy
Good Neighbor Pharmacy
Diabetes Shoppe
Your Partner in Diabetes Care
Holiday Sale!
December 19, 2016 to January 7, 2017 at both locations!
25% OFF All OTC Items
35% OFF Supplements & Sports Nutritional Products
▪ Hospital Supplies ▪ Diabetes Products
Two Convenient Locations:
Navy Hill (CHC) Tel. (670) 323-5000/01 • Fax (670) 323-5011 Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm | Sat & Sun:8am-4pm
Dandan (Joeten) Tel. (670) 235-6170/74 • Fax (670) 235-6180 Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm | Sat: 8am-4pm
Open everyday of the year, providing prescription medication and healthcare essentials to the people of the CNMI for over 20 years.
Visit us on www.facebook.com/phipharmacy
PHI Pharmacy…the pharmacy you can trust!
OPEN on Monday, December 26, 2016

SCS Saipan Computer Services 30th Anniversary 1986-2016
Service Beyond The Sale...
SAIPAN COMPUTER SERVICES and IDEAL SIGNS
2016 Customer Appreciation Raffle
RAFFLE DATE: JANUARY 3, 2017
IDEAL SIGNS
Get a chance to WIN one of these Awesome Prizes!
One (1) Raffle ticket for every $30 Purchase.
Last purchase date December 31, 2016
MICROSOFT 128 GB SURFACE Pro
LENOVO Multi-Touch Laptop
BOSE Companion 5 - 2.1 Channel Speaker
NOT 1 BUT 3 LUCKY GRAND PRIZE WINNERS
APPLE 27" iMAC Desktop Computer w/ 5K Retina Display
CANON EOS Rebel T5 DSLR Camera
and a lot more..
GoPro HERO 4 Camera
SAMSUNG SM T670 18"Tablet PC
POLAROID Mobile Printer
CYBERPOWER PC Gamer Desktop
Thank you CNMI... on our 30th Anniversary and still... Service Beyond the Sale!

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?
GOOD NEWS FOR ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:
To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be made through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.
New Promotional Sale!
LAVATORY SINK
NEW ARRIVALS
Electric Tools
Made in US
Jig Saws, Hammer Drills, Finish Sanders, Circular Saws and etc.
HIGH-CLASS KITCHEN SINK
STAINLESS 304
New Arrivals
ALUMINUM WINDOWS
MADE IN US | All Sizes
VARIOUS STYLES:
French, Aluminum, Bronze
LED TUBES
Best Price in Saipan
Less & More
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
SPECTRUM PAINT
· Special Formula for Tropical Marine Climate
· Longer Service Life
· Top Quality
FLAT & SEMI-GLOSS
INT & EXT LATEX
MAHOGANY LUMBER & DOOR JAMBS
HIGH QUALITY/ALL SIZES
CHAIN LINK FENCE
ALL SIZES
"The Best Prices on Saipan"
REBAR US STANDARD
#3 TO #8
MADE IN KOREA
U.S. LUMBER
PRESSURE TREATED / REGULAR
15% TO 75% OFF
ALL DAMAGED ITEMS!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

VIVA POKER
Raffle Bonanza
GRAND PRIZE
WIN ME
2016 YARiS
TOYOTA
3RD PRIZE $500
1ST PRIZE $2,000
2ND PRIZE $1,000
CONSOLATION PRIZES
FLAT SCREEN TV 32" | CELLPHONE- SAMSUNG | ELECTRIC FAN | RICE COOKER
OVEN TOASTER | JASMINE RICE – 50LBS |1 PLASTIC BAG CANNED GOODS
RAFFLE DRAW
December 24, 2016 • 8:00pm at VIVA Poker
MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN*
* A representative with signed authorization letter and valid I.D. will be honored
10 CENTS 20 BET
5 BET
10 BET
20 BET
Royal Flush 8 tickets 5 tickets 10 tickets 20 tickets
5 of a kind 4 tickets 2 tickets 5 tickets 7 tickets
Straight flush 2 tickets 1 ticket 3 tickets 5 tickets
10 cents Machines Maximum 20 bet
Tel: (670) 234-0022 • Chalan Piao, Saipan

Torres, lawmakers greet everyone merry Christmas

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, and legislators greet the people of the CNMI happy holidays.

Torres said he is thankful to the community, the departments, and the administration for another year and is especially thankful for what has not been received.

"We've been through a lot last year, but I want to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I want to thank the community for their support, their participation, and for being part of the great Commonwealth. I would like to thank all the departments, our private sectors, our partners, and our community members for being a part of our great Commonwealth. As we move toward 2017, there is a lot to look forward to, but let's give thanks for what we've got this 2016 and appreciate what we didn't get, such as another Soudelor, another devastation from natural disasters, and just other issues that we didn't get," he said.

"We should be thankful for whatever we got, whether it is great or small—whatever it is, give thanks to the Lord," added Torres.

Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog shared the same sentiments.

"On behalf of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Diann Torres, my wife, myself, and the whole administration and Cabinet members, we'd like to extend our humble greetings in advance and wish the people of the CNMI—both citizens and residents—a happy and glorious merry Christmas. I hope that everyone will be safe throughout the holidays as we prepare to enjoy and hopefully we do not have any more disasters as a result of these holidays. As we depart 2016, I'd to extend and ask the people and citizens [of CNMI] to join me in saying farewell 2016 and welcoming the New Year. I hope the New Year gives us a lot of blessings and opportunity moving forward. Merry Christmas to all of the CNMI and our neighboring islands," he said.

House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), along with other members of the House of Representatives, shared heartfelt messages for the people of the CNMI.

"From my family, staff, and I to yours, a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May peace, joy, and love be your gifts for Christmas and your blessings all year through. May you wrap all the blessings of the Lord around your hearts and celebrate the gift of family, friends, and life throughout this holiday season," he said.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) kept it short and sweet.

"I wish for the people to have a happy and safe holidays and to treat everybody with love and respect," he said.

Rep. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan) gave special mention to the people of Precinct 4.

"I would like to wish everybody in the CNMI a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays. I hope the New Year brings a lot of happiness, love and prosperity as well as good health. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to the people of the CNMI—especially the people in precinct 4," he said.

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) wished everybody to stay healthy while Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan) wished for world peace.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

DISCOVER A WORLD OF GIFTS
Give Joy
ENJOY FREE HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING SERVICE FOR ANY IN-STORE PURCHASE.
Dec. 14-25, 2pm to 10pm
TAKE A FREE PHOTO WITH SANTA CLAUS WITH ANY IN-STORE PURCHASE.
Dec. 14-25, 7pm to 9pm
BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN MP, 96950
PHONE 1 (670) 234-6615 | OPEN 10:30 am - 10:30 pm
TGALLERIA.COM
#GiveJoy
TGALLERIA
DFS
T GALLERIA

IPI-CSR and Ayuda Network spread Christmas cheer

Imperial Pacific International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility collaborated anew with the Ayuda Network to spread holiday cheer to families. Yesterday, they began distributing gifts during homes visits and will continue on until today.

Imperial Pacific International CSR coordinator Chandis Cooper assist in wrapping presents at the Ayuda Network office.
IPI-CSR PHOTO

Edilyn Benjamin, CSR coordinator, does make sure her gift is perfectly set.
IPI-CSR PHOTO

CSR representatives Fuji Suel, Mike Iguel and David Ayuyu give their best for this week' gift-giving.
IPI-CSR PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International CSR team works with Ayuda Network in preparing individual gifts that CSR began distributing yesterday afternoon and will continue today. In this photo, Ayuda Network assistant Regina Terlaje, left, joins CSR team led by coordinator Chandis Cooper, second left.
IPI-CSR PHOTO

Ayuda Network office assistant Jamie Ada, second from left, is flanked by Imperial Pacific International CSR representatives Scott Leon Guerrero, Tanisha Masga, and Greg Sablan.
IPI-CSR PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International CSR team and Ayuda Network visit their first house during their gift-giving home visits yesterday afternoon.
IPI-CSR PHOTO

Let the spirit of love gently fill our hearts and homes in this loveliest of seasons.
Merry Christmas!
From your
Kan Pacific Saipan Family
Mariana Resort & Spa

HIMAWARI
DELI, BAKERY & STORE
(JAPANESE FOOD, GROCERY & FURNITURE)

Store Expansion Sale

FLOOR AREA IS 1.5 TIMES BIGGER THAN BEFORE

December 23 & 24, 2016 (Friday & Saturday)

For every $20.00 worth of purchase exclusive from the store only (Restaurant not included).
(cigarette, telephone card and purchase of gift certificates are not included)

You will receive $2.00 worth of Gift Certificate and a Raffle Ticket
For the raffle you will be able to win special Gift Prizes!

Every ticket wins.
Must be present to win.

Raffle Draw will be on Dec. 25, 2016 (Sunday)

For $1.70/each
2,000 kind of items just arrived from Japan
Kitchen wares, plastic wares, tools, dishes, office supplies, accessories and many more.

We accept Christmas cake order. Please order 1 day in advance.

Tel. 233-1530 / 1531 • Fax 233-1532

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 255

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Venezuela unsafe for Americans and its own

The situation continues to go from bad to worse in Venezuela, so much so that the U.S. State Department has warned Americans that its dangerous to live in or even visit that country.

The State Department's Security Advisory Council last week sent the following message via Twitter: "Travel Warning: If the security climate worsens, U.S. citizens should be aware that they are responsible for making arrangements for their exit from #Venezuela."

Chilling words if you're an American living in Venezuela. The advisory also said Americans should not to travel to the deteriorating South American country because crime and social instability have exploded.

The State Department also emphasizes that the political and security situation in Venezuela is unpredictable, a moment-to-moment exercise. In the past, Venezuelan authorities have arrested U.S. citizens with no evidence that they committed crimes.

These red alerts are no surprise. The economic crisis has created a situation of precariousness and anguish among the population—and among the hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans who live in exile in South Florida.

In the latest twist, on Tuesday, just as quickly as the Venezuelan government announced the Jan. 2 closing of its border with Colombia—where desperate Venezuelans dash for goods—the order was rescinded.

That came days after President Nicolas Maduro annulled all 100-bolivar notes, leading to massive lines at banks, and making cash transactions difficult. But then he changed course late Saturday, announcing the notes could be used until Jan. 2. Before that announcement, riots and looting broke out in several cities.

Today, Venezuela is a place of mass despair. Street protests occur at any time and without warning. They can be peaceful or turn violent. The homicide rate has also skyrocketed, highlighting the social turmoil and the inability of the authorities to stop criminal activity.

Last week, the National Assembly declared the national crisis the political responsibility of President Maduro. But on Thursday, the Supreme Court of Justice—a chavista entity—annulled the parliamentary trial, claiming that the Assembly's actions were unconstitutional.

Despite a crumbling government, Maduro persists in keeping the remains of chavismo afloat. But by now he should admit that his system is not viable. In fact, it is doomed.

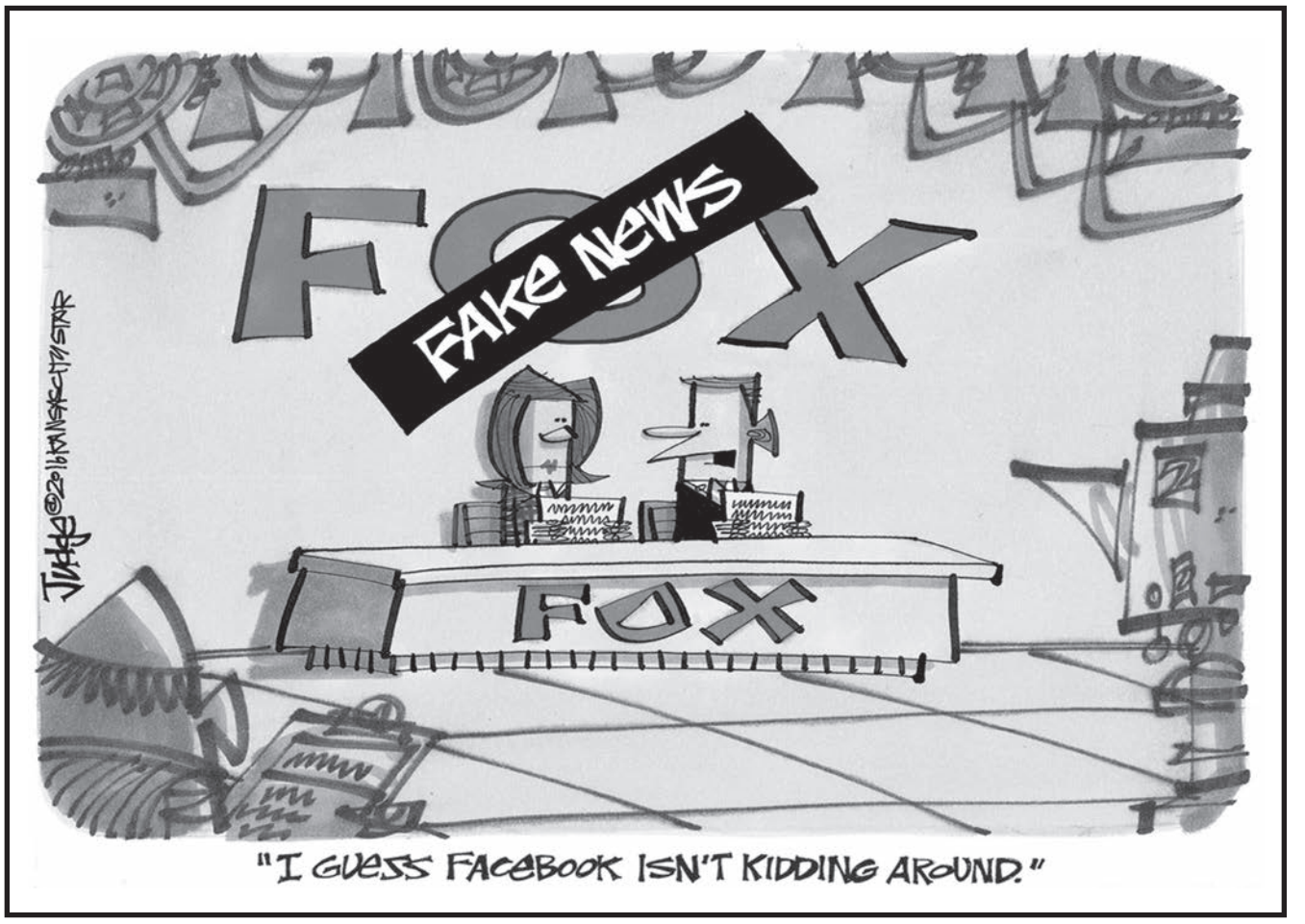
Still, he's playing Santa Claus, too. The government confiscated 3.8 million toys from a distributor that Maduro claims hoarded them in a scheme to claim a shortage and charge higher prices. And now, the president will oversee the distribution of the toys. "We will not let them be robbed of Christmas," an official with the country's consumer protection agency said on Twitter. How touching.

He can hand out all the toys he wants, Venezuelans won't be fooled, they know they have been robbed of so much more that a holiday. President Maduro has a tenuous hold on a regime that represses opposition demonstrations, suffocates private enterprise, creates shortages of food and other commodities and offers no hope to a tired population.

As for Americans, the State Department has already indicated that traveling to Venezuela is dangerous. And the warning should be taken seriously.

Venezuela is a country on the edge.

(c)2016 Miami Herald



Divest from everything

By JACK SALTZBERG
LOS ANGELES TIMES

By the end of 2016, the United Nations will have adopted 20 resolutions against the state of Israel and four resolutions against all other countries combined. Since 2012, university students in the United States have been almost as aggressive, introducing roughly 100 boycott, divestment and sanctions resolutions—also known as BDS—against Israel, and at best a handful of resolutions against all other nations combined.

Judging from this imbalance, it seems that U.S. students consider Israel the world's foremost human rights violator—worse than Syria, China, Russia, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Sudan, Bangladesh, Libya, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, South Korea, Brunei, Somalia and Saudi Arabia.

Of course that's ridiculous. Yet as a result of a sophisticated Palestinian nationalist campaign—plus a hefty dose of anti-Semitism—it's modish for students to reserve their most extreme outrage for the United States' chief ally in the Middle East. The pro-Israel side, meanwhile, has proved completely ineffective.

We're losing in part because most pro-Israel organizations have a long history of supporting Israel, not fighting for Israel. They operate on the assumption that the best way to battle BDS is through education—a long-term solution that won't work in the campus battles so long as pro-Israel faculty and students remain in the minority.

While almost all BDS strategies are offensive (both literally and figuratively), anti-BDS strategies are reactionary and defensive. When BDSers introduce anti-Israel resolutions, pro-Israel students protest them. When BDSers accuse Israel of apartheid, genocide, racism and colonialism, pro-Israel students (correctly) argue that none of these labels is accurate.

The BDS movement is dictating the narrative and always striking the first blow.

Even when we "defeat" BDS resolutions and pop the champagne to celebrate, the BDS movement is already plotting its next attack. BDS' only time frame is the destruction of Israel. For supporters, there are no defeats, just opportunities. When a BDS resolution fails, proponents will introduce another resolution within days, weeks or months, giving the movement more opportunity to spew propaganda against Israel and sway people to their cause.

It's time to try something different. Here is a simple solution that will help end BDS on university campuses: Turn BDS into a meaningless acronym.

Pro-Israel students should take the offensive by introducing multiple divestment resolutions against companies that do business in human-rights violating countries. Students should use the same BDS resolutions previously introduced against Israel and change the wording from Israel to (offending nation), then list the grievances: state executions of homosexuals; burying alive or throwing LGBT people from buildings; female genital excision; government directed gang rapes; mass child labor deaths; ethnic cleansing and hacking to death of children and pregnant women; political gulags for dissidents and journalists; public stonings of adulterers.

If a university's pension fund invests in McDonald's, target McDonald's for licensing restaurants in Saudi Arabia, where executions of homosexuals continue. If the fund prefers Starbucks stock, target Starbucks for operating coffee shops in Pakistan, or Brunei, or in China, which is occupying Tibet.

Pro-Israel students need to flood the educational landscape with the acronym BDS until every school in the nation has so many resolutions pending that campuses revolt. And they should look beyond their obvious allies. They should reach out specifically to anti-Israel BDSers who supposedly care about human rights. If those students refuse, publicize their hypocrisy.

Meanwhile, create web platforms and social media campaigns in the dramatic and successful BDS style. Produce short films that highlight the offending countries' extensive and deplorable human rights violations.

The more BDS resolutions that are introduced, the sooner BDS will lose its meaning, power and relevancy, and the quicker the war against Israel will end on university campuses. Next, go after unions and professional associations, such as the American Studies Assn., which thought that Israel—among all nations—was the only country worth boycotting in its 52-year history.

Whenever I've shared my ideas with pro-Israel students, they've had similar reactions: "Two wrongs don't make a right" or "We should promote Israel rather than attack other companies and countries." The first response is inaccurate because the resolutions against Israel generally trade in falsehoods, while the new resolutions against other countries will be factual. As for the second response, maybe it's time for pro-Israel supporters to get some chutzpah.

University students have become pawns in a political and religious campaign against a democratic, fundamentally decent country. In the process, the BDS movement has shifted the spotlight away from unspeakable human rights violators and the intolerable suffering of their many victims. When we beat BDS at its own game, people who really need our help may well benefit the most.

Jack Saltzberg is the founder and executive director of the Israel Group, a nonprofit that protects Israel in the diaspora. He is working on a book about political warfare against Israel. Reach him at js@theisraelgroup.org. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

From here to Alpha Centauri

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

If you'd like some bragging rights to your friends in Tokyo, Seoul, or Shanghai, here's a name to lay on them: Alpha Centauri. It's a star that you can see from Saipan, but it can't be seen from the higher northern latitudes, including the cities I just mentioned.

Alpha Centauri was one of the big astronomy stories of 2016. Today we'll catch up with that story by doing some armchair space-travel. So drop an ice cube in your drink, fire up a fresh smoke, and let's get going.

Alpha Centauri is the third-brightest star in the night sky. In Saipan it's visible over the southern horizon just before dawn. You really have to go to the southern hemisphere for Alpha Centauri to have some decent altitude. In any case, though, to the bare eyeball Alpha Centauri looks like a single point of light.

It's really a system of three stars, though. The term Alpha Centauri is often used as a blanket word to cover the entire trio.

Two of the stars are pretty much like our sun, and are locked into orbit with each other because of their mutual gravitation. But it's the third star that's in the news right now. This star is called Proxima Centauri. If the term "Proxima" seems a lot like "proximate," you're right: Proxima Centauri is the closest star to our own sun. In cosmic terms, it's right next door at 4.2 light-years.

In stellar terms, it's a dim pipsqueak known as a red dwarf. It's only a little bit bigger than the planet Jupiter. It turns out that many, perhaps most, of the stars in our galaxy are red dwarfs. People who search for extra-terrestrial life, then, must contemplate whether or not red dwarfs can support planets that might be able to support life. If red dwarfs could deliver on that note, it would be a big deal.

And just such a big deal was unveiled in August. That's when it was announced that Proxima Centauri appears to have a planet. The planet may be a rocky planet (Earth is also a rocky planet, as opposed to a gaseous planet) and its orbital distance may put it in the "habitable zone" where water can exist in a liquid state. This planet is called "Proxima b."

Promixa b has not been directly observed. Its existence was surmised by observing the behavior of Proxima Centauri, which is influenced by the tug of the planet's gravity. So there's a lot of scientific conjecture here, as opposed to rock-solid proof.

Still, for hunters of extra-terrestrial life, finding that our very nearest stellar neighbor harbors a candidate for habitability has kicked off a lot of excitement.

Unfortunately, even though 4.2 light-years is a puny distance on the cosmic scale, our earthling technology is far too feeble to tackle it. Assuming the space shuttle could go that far, it would take, according to the EarthSky website (EarthSky.org), 165,000 years to make the trip. I've been around aviation long enough to know that there's no way that any chief pilot would approve that much per diem pay for the flight crew. So a trip like this just isn't realistic.

But there is a research project in the works that hopes to get some ultra-small space probes (each probe the size of a sugar cube) zooming to Alpha Centauri at a speed of 20 percent of the speed of light. The trip would take about 20 years, and then it would take 4.2 years for any radio signals (such as a photo of Proxima b) to get back to Earth. The big idea is to use super-duper powerful lasers on Earth to push a "light sail" that propels the little space probes. The name of the project is "Breakthrough Starshot." If you run a Web search for the term you'll see lots of information.

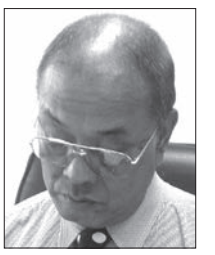
Even in the best case scenario, with all the time it would take to get something like this working I'll probably be long gone before any photos of Proxima b ever reach Earth. Actuaries, alas, can't be denied any more than chief pilots can. But some of you younger *Saipan Tribune* readers could conceivably live to see the day when news from Proxima b reaches Earth. In that case, I hope you'll raise a toast to the memory of your star-struck newspaper columnist.

In fact, a toast seems like a pretty good idea right about now; after all, we've safely returned from our armchair space mission. Alpha Centauri isn't Saipan's most famous sight, but it's proving to be a doorway to astronomical adventure.

Tomorrow's Christmas Eve

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



Tomorrow's Christmas Eve! Traditionally, it's the time of year when the faithful heads to church to attend Midnight Mass (Misan Gayu). We participate in the anniversary of the *niño*'s birthday. Afterwards, we head home for coffee and breakfast before resting for the veneration of the Baby Jesus at daylight.

There was once the tradition of a basket of yam doughnuts usually placed beneath the front window of the house for everyone, including passersby. It faded when we moved from farming to a money economy. In fact, consider yourself lucky if you eat yam during the holiday season. This is because the farm item is either scarce or a bit too pricey for our retirement and social security checks.

Remember the neighborhood *novena* for the Baby Jesus that moved from house to house? It was a religious event attended by nearly every kid on the block. Poor as we were, at least there was festive food before Christmas Eve. The *novena* has kept a closely-knit community for years where we knew everybody by first name.

In our golden years, the year-end religious tradition evokes a sentimental journey into yester-years. I miss the family gathering with parents and siblings. We renew familial unity and love and spent the rest of the afternoon talking or singing in harmony. It's family unity at its best!

It was in this gathering that you extend the olive branch to any sibling with whom you may have feuded over the last year. We all bury it with *Felis Noche Buena* and move along. Yes, someone said that a family that prays together stays together.

Even more humbling was the grand felicitation and blessings we've received from our elderly in the old village. Last I checked the place, none of the elderly who used to press my forehead with the sign of the cross is around. They were there during the sunrise of my boyhood but have all sailed into the sunset since years ago. *Si yuus maase`!*

It was in church that I heard the most beautiful *noche buena* songs with my late Uncle Bill and his wife Kita leading the choir. The late Dominina Olopai and her dad did the 8am Mass. I haven't heard the wonderful harmony since yesteryears! The veneration troops no longer sing. They just turn on the CD and blast it off as they come near residential areas. Must be the gift of the digital age that relegated local custom into the back pages of history.

I still remember that though this may be a joyous occasion, it remains *Silent Night*. It was "all is calm, all is bright" as the eternal light shines silently over Bethlehem. It's the north star of our spiritual journey! Follow it.

Indeed, it was a sentimental journey of the old village community of what it used to be that is no longer. Well, we treaded the most memorable road in life, *I Chalan Iya Hame* or "The Road Home." *Felis noche buena para todus! Si Iku.*

Kissing of the hand: If there's any lasting tradition that is still strong among local families here, it's the kissing of the hands of our elderly. You bend your head as they grant you the lasting wish of a successful journey ahead. What's the essence of this tradition?

It would have to be that sense of humility that fosters personal respect so you in turn respect others in your family and community. The combined discipline of tradition and spiritual development ensures peace and tranquility in our communities.

To this day, I still bow my head when I meet aunts and uncles in family gatherings or elsewhere. I do the same whenever there's time to visit the graves of my parents and loved ones. My children and grand children have learned this wonderful tradition.

Gratifying the knowledge that you have been blessed with deep and thoughtful wish that you find brighter tomorrows as you grow into an adult. It's one healthy aspect that is found in our cultural tradition—fostering of a sense of humility and respect—as you traverse that long journey before you.

Compassion: Humbling that our people are very compassionate and would extend a hand to needy siblings or anyone else in our community. Believe it or not, labels don't mean a thing to the extent where we also share food stamps. If anything, the darn thing tasted good too!

I see families carrying on the tradition of *novenas*. In time of sorrow, we all gather to console the bereaved. Happy to see how well our people understand the difference in gifts for happy occasions versus family misfortune. It's another strong fiber in our tradition that has kept us together in both good and bad times.

Communal sharing: Communal sharing is a tradition that has devolved and now limited to immediate families only. Recalled when neighbors shared farm harvest or fresh catch from the sea. It faded slowly as more folks relocated to new homestead subdivisions between As Matuis, Tanapag, Kagman, Dandan and Koblerville.

This is still well and alive among immediate family members. It only takes a phone call to collect your share. At least, the visit is a way of ensuring that everyone's doing fine. You can head home content that everyone's well and good. It's still a sentiment in my heart, soul and mind as the oldest among siblings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Labor urged to be fair

Labor and workforce issues are important and sensitive elsewhere and especially here where our reliance on nonresidents is an economic necessity. It is important to protect business and workforce interests so as a local business I welcome inspections to make sure I'm in full compliance with the local and federal laws.

I worry very much when the CNMI Department of Labor focuses almost entirely on small to mid-size businesses and not the large businesses. Recent events at a large construction site shows how relaxed the CNMI Department of Labor is in monitoring large businesses and this is not good for business, the workers, or for the CNMI.

I urge the CNMI Department of Labor to scrutinize all businesses in the same manner because this is not how it appears to the public.

I fully support our gaming industry and all the new businesses that have established here but there cannot be two sets of rules, one for small and mid-size businesses and another for the new and larger business interests. This two-fold approach will only create new problems for the government agencies, the public and the CNMI.

So I ask the CNMI Department of Labor to be fair in its inspection of businesses in the CNMI, do not favor on over another, and apply the rules evenly to everyone, big or small. To do otherwise is to compromise the CNMI's long-term interest.

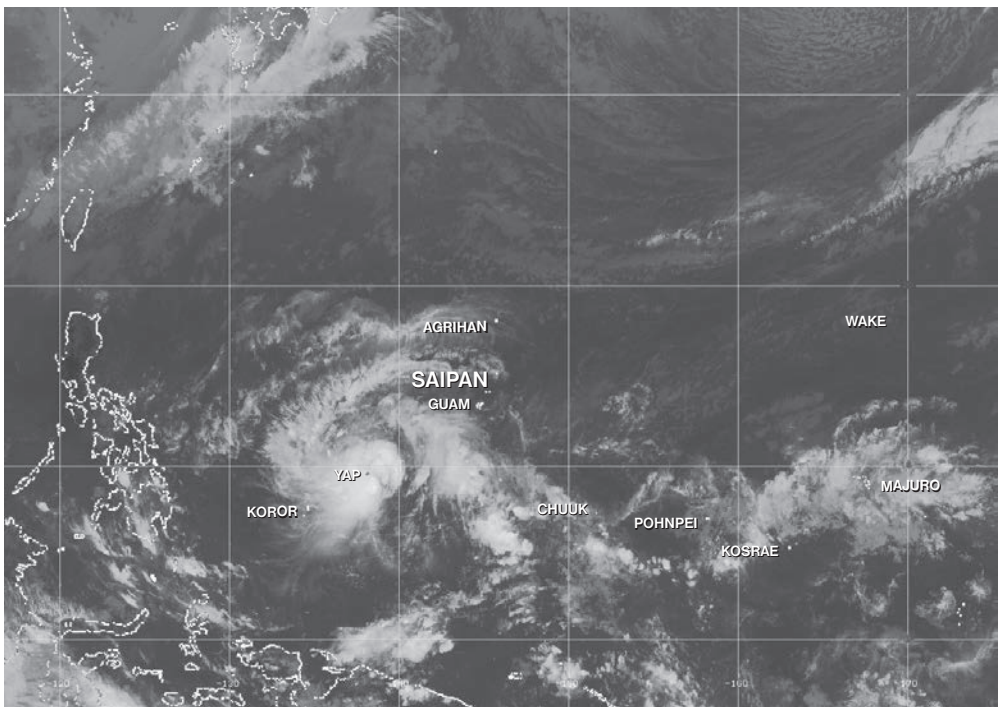
Juan S. 'Santiago' Tenorio
Airport Road, Dandan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:50 AM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

East to Northeast trade winds and isolated showers prevail across the local area this morning. Breezy conditions will persist across the Marianas through at least Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Morning clouds	80 / 86 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	78 / 86 °F
Yap	Partly sunny	80 / 85 °F
Chuuk	Partly sunny	82 / 86 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	80 / 84 °F
Kosrae	Afternoon clouds	81 / 85 °F
Majuro	Morning clouds	81 / 84 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Mostly sunny	58 / 64 °F
Beijing	Sunny	20 / 37 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	64 / 75 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	71 / 79 °F
London	Afternoon clouds	42 / 53 °F
Los Angeles	Cloudy	53 / 60 °F
Manila	Mostly sunny	76 / 87 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	55 / 87 °F
Miami	Partly sunny	73 / 80 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	34 / 46 °F
Osaka	Partly sunny	42 / 54 °F
Paris	High level clouds	40 / 47 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	37 / 44 °F
Rome	Sunny	34 / 57 °F
Salem	Light rain	36 / 41 °F
San Francisco	Heavy rain	49 / 55 °F
Seoul	Morning clouds	25 / 33 °F
Tokyo	Morning clouds	47 / 64 °F
Washington, DC	Partly sunny	29 / 45 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
3:39 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.29 Feet
8:56 AM	LOW TIDE	0.81 Feet
3:20 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.84 Feet
10:37 PM	LOW TIDE	0.38 Feet

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	5:53 PM
Sunday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Monday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM
Tuesday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:29 AM	1:38 PM	-
Saturday	2:16 AM	2:17 PM	-
Sunday	3:04 AM	2:57 PM	-
Monday	3:51 AM	3:39 PM	-
Tuesday	4:40 AM	4:23 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	7, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Man'amko holds annual concert

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

A group called Voices of Angels performs a song with an interpretive dance during the *man'amko*'s annual winter concert at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Dec. 20.

By MICHAEL T. SANTOS
michael.santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The *man'amko* proved that they are still spry with their annual Christmas concert held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center last Tuesday.

The hourlong event treated the audience to diverse performances ranging from singing with the Voices of Angels to a theatrical skit. There was also a raffle for the concert-goers.

An audience member, Sophia Quintos, said, "I like the skit the *man'amko* did at the end of the concert, it was really funny."

Tickets were sold at $5 each.

Walter Manglona, director of the Office on Aging, said, "Proceeds for the event will benefit the Office on Aging, but the *man'amko* would much prefer to have people give presents rather than the money. So for those who, for some reason, can't afford the ticket and we have some extra space left, we'll squeeze you in."

Rep. BJ Attao (Ind-Saipan) said, "It's always entertaining to come out and watch the [*man'amko]* every year."

Attao was present throughout the entire concert, despite watching the *man'amko*'s performance at the Legislature the day before, making this his third year in a row.

"We actually get to catch a glimpse of them up at the Legislature every year so we're treated with a sneak peek of their performance but it's nothing like the actual concert," Attao said.

Manglona said, "I actually wanted to step back a bit just to have the *man'amko* have something all to themselves. That's why everything is a single performance and all efforts in this concert is thanks to them."

A GRAND
New Year's Eve
AT
HYATT REGENCY
SAIPAN
A GRAND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER
Saturday, 31 December 2016 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Be spoilt for choice this New Year's Eve as Giovanni's and Kili Café & Terrace offer a grand buffet on the last day of 2016. The grand buffet includes free-flowing premium wine, sparkling wine, beer, iced tea and soft drinks.
Price: US$80 per person
US$60 Club at the Hyatt® Member
US$40 per child (ages 6-12)
Dine in classic Japanese ambiance and delight in delicacies of Miyako. The dinner buffet includes free-flowing sparkling wine, Asahi Beer and green tea.
Price: US$80 per person
US$60 Club at the Hyatt® Member
US$40 per child (ages 6-12)
NEW YEAR'S DAY
Sunday, 1 January 2017
Giovanni's and Kili Café & Terrace offer a grand New Year's brunch with live carving stations, inclusive of sparkling wine, mimosa cocktails, wines beer, iced tea and soft drinks from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM.
Price: US$60 per person
US$45 Club at the Hyatt® Member
US$30 per child (ages 6-12)
Miyako offers a luxuriant selection of seafood, a variety of sushi and traditional delicacies of New Year's Day. The lunch buffet is from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
Price: US$60 per person
US$45 Club at the Hyatt® Member
US$30 per child (ages 6-12)
Teppanyaki offers an awe-inspiring dinner menu featuring king prawns, Australian wagyu beef sirloin and crab fried rice – a set course menu awaits you for both Christmas eve and Christmas day dinner.
Price: US$120 per person
US$ 100 Club at the Hyatt® Member
US$40 per child (ages 6-12)
*Two seating arrangements, at 5:30 PM and 8:00 PM
Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one….sparks!!
What memory makes you smile?
NEW YEAR'S EVE BEACH FRONT COUNT DOWN
Saturday, 31 December 2016 from 10:00 PM to 1:30 AM
Join us beachfront for New Year's Eve filled with champagne, laughter, friends, sparklers and fireworks as we countdown to 2017. With three bars, a beverage selection featuring champagne, sparkling wine and select beers as well as a raffle drawing every hour on the hour, this will be the place to ring in the new year.
Reservations are highly recommended, please call +1 234 1234 ext. 26 for more information.

Kilili congratulates Torres on CNMI submerged lands

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) congratulated Gov. Ralph Torres on Wednesday for successfully completing the conveyance of ownership of submerged lands and mineral rights around the islands of Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion back to the people of the Northern Marianas. Legislation returning the submerged lands around all of the Northern Marianas was Sablan's first bill and President Obama signed the law allowing for the transfer of ownership in 2013.

"[Torres] is to be congratulated for [this] accomplishment," Sablan said. "Regaining ownership of these lands is one more step forward for the people of the Marianas."

Shortly after President Obama signed the transfer law, Public Law 113-34, the lands around nine of the Marianas were handed back to the Commonwealth. But transfer was withheld around the three northernmost islands—Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion—as well as around Tinian and Farallon de Medinilla, pending coordination of management agreements between the U.S. and the Marianas governments.

Torres signed a coordination of management agreement for Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion in September, opening the way earlier this month for Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to sign the patent, transferring submerged lands and mineral rights around the islands, and for the governor to sign in acceptance Wednesday.

"As Governor Torres said when the agreement was finalized in September, in regaining these lands we regain part of our cultural heritage," said Sablan. "And we reinforce the Commonwealth's commitment to preserving and protecting our natural resources."

The islands of Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion are protected by the Commonwealth Constitution as "uninhabited places [to be] used only for the preservation and protection of natural resources, including but not limited to bird, wildlife and plant species."

The three islands are entirely surrounded by the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument created by President George W. Bush in 2009. ***(PR)***

AS THE SPIRIT OF
Christmas
fills our villages throughout the Commonwealth, may we be inspired by our resiliency as a community and our reinforced desire for a higher quality of life. Let us close our 2016 chapter with gratitude and open our 2017 with renewed hope.
With a token of love, we extend our Merriest Christmas wishes for abundance of blessings to all of you and to our families and friends living abroad. May we be successful in etching our next chapter with synergy as we drive the CNMI forward together.
With Much Love and Respect,
CNMI Republican Party – Your Solutions Driven Leadership

$1,000 for MVA's 'Marianas-chan' winner

In its quest to find its Marianas-*chan* (Marianas child) to help promote the Northern Marianas in Japan, the Marianas Visitors Authority is offering a $1,000 to the winner of auditions on Jan. 7, 2016. Contestants must register before the auditions, and the deadline to register is Dec. 30, 2016.

Marianas-*chan* will be featured in various MVA marketing and promotional activities in 2017, beginning in February. In addition to the $1,000 cash prize, travel expenses and a stipend will be provided to Marianas-*chan* and their parent or guardian for promotional activities held in Japan and the NMI.

"We are looking for that one special child ages 4-6 who will—quite simply—win the hearts of potential Japanese visitors," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We encourage all parents to consider having their eligible children apply for this extraordinary opportunity."

Eligibility requirements and an application are available at www.mymarianas.comor at the MVA offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The cash prize will be awarded to the winner once all contest eligibility requirements are met, including the requirement for the child to have a U.S. passport.

"We realize that at this young age, many children do not yet have a passport, so we are allowing our winner up to 30 days to get a passport, if necessary," said Concepcion. "This is going to be a great travel and exposure opportunity for one lucky family, and we're looking forward to meeting our applicants."

Marianas-*chan* will visit Japan to promote tourism and make television appearances, and his or her image will be issued in promotional material and merchandising.

Contestants will have the opportunity to demonstrate any special talent or skill at the live auditions on Saipan. Applicants must reside in the Northern Mariana Islands and be a U.S. citizen. Additional criteria are specified on the application. Interested contestants from Tinian and Rota are invited to submit an application with a 1-2 minute video of the contestant to info@mymarianas.com for call back to the Jan. 7 audition.

For further details, download a Marianas-*chan* application at www.mymarianas.comor call the MVA at 1.670.664.3200/01.

2 SIS students get an early crack at college

Saipan International School is proud to announce the acceptance of two of its seniors to outstanding U.S. university programs.

Jeongwoo "Jason" Kim has been accepted to the Early Decision program at the Questrom School of Business at Boston University. Boston University is one of the finest research and teaching institutions in the world, and home to extraordinary scholars from more than 100 countries who share the desire to lead in a global society. Kim's accomplishments, academic achievement, and promise have earned him a place to study alongside a select group of peers who are all ambitious, talented students.

Sung Jun Yoon has been offered a place in the pharmacy program at Ohio Northern University. Ohio Northern University has a 95-percent job and graduate school placement rate because students move toward a career long before they graduate. As a pharmacy student, Yoon's education will be grounded in real-life practice by participating in health-risk screenings, wellness and health education programs, immunization events, medication education and medication therapy management sessions, and other direct patient care services. ***(PR)***

UNESCO inclusion sought for Marianas Trench

The Marianas Trench Marine National Monument could be nominated to be added to the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, or UNESCO.

Federal officials in Hawaii with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration worked with locals including Richard Seman, Genevieve Cabrera, Cinta Kaipat, Ignacio V. Cabrera, and Angelo Villagomez to submit the nomination in early 2016.

"Residents of the Marianas have long known that the natural resources surrounding our islands are spectacular," said Villagomez. "Now our very own Marianas Trench could be recognized as one of the most significant features on the planet."

Nan Madol in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands, and the Rock Islands in Koror, Palau were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2016, 2010, and 2012, respectively. The list contains 1,052 locations in nearly every country and includes the most iconic historical, cultural, and natural places on the planet from the Great Wall of China, to the pyramids of Egypt, and the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument in Hawaii.

The proposed listing on UNESCO could be a boon to tourism and would literally put the Northern Mariana Islands on the checklist of the best places to visit on the planet.

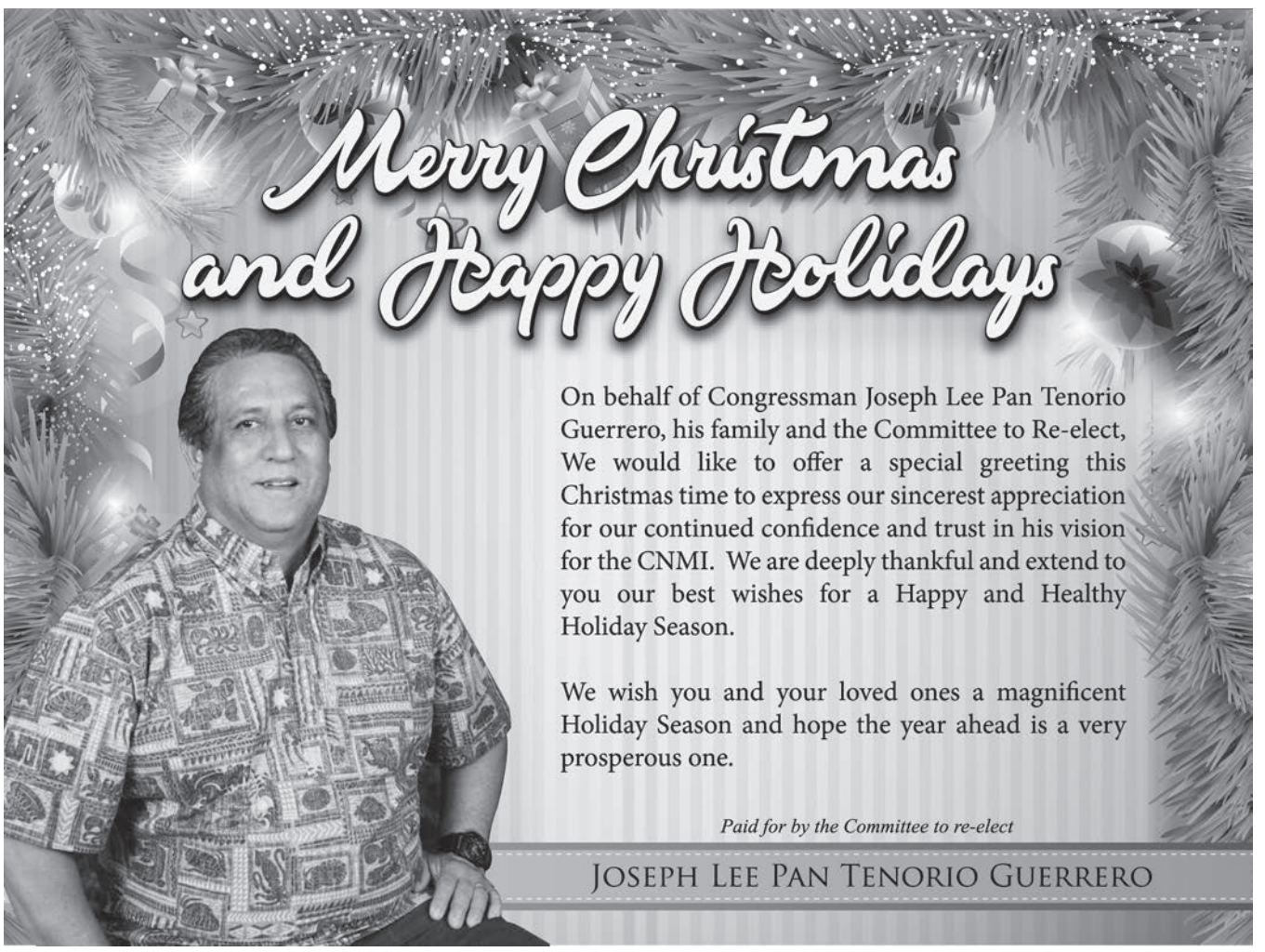
"The Japanese tourist market is very aware of the UNESCO World Heritage List," said Aya Matsumoto, a resident of Saipan with nearly three decades of experience in tourism. "Japan has 20 World Heritage Sites and they are all very popular places to visit. If we had a World Heritage Site, like those in Palau, FSM, and Marshall Islands, the Japanese would want to visit."

UNESCO seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. World Heritage Sites are places that have special cultural or physical significance.

"I see the UNESCO listing as helping to bring us closer to achieving the goals we set 10 years ago regarding the monument," said Cabrera, chairman of the Friends of the Marianas Trench, an organization that has advocated for cultural and natural resource protection for nearly a decade. "We know that progress has been slow, but we're starting to see some of those benefits."

Part of the mission of UNESCO's World Heritage mission is to "encourage participation of the local population in the preservation of their cultural and natural heritage."

The pending nomination was announced on the *Federal Register* on Dec. 9 and there is a comment period until Dec. 27. Residents of the Northern Mariana Islands who support the listing can contact the Friends of the Marianas Trench at marianamonument@gmail.com and they will add your name and comment to their submission. ***(PR)***


Merry Christmas
and Happy Holidays
On behalf of Congressman Joseph Lee Pan Tenorio Guerrero, his family and the Committee to Re-elect, We would like to offer a special greeting this Christmas time to express our sincerest appreciation for our continued confidence and trust in his vision for the CNMI. We are deeply thankful and extend to you our best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.
We wish you and your loved ones a magnificent Holiday Season and hope the year ahead is a very prosperous one.
Paid for by the Committee to re-elect
JOSEPH LEE PAN TENORIO GUERRERO

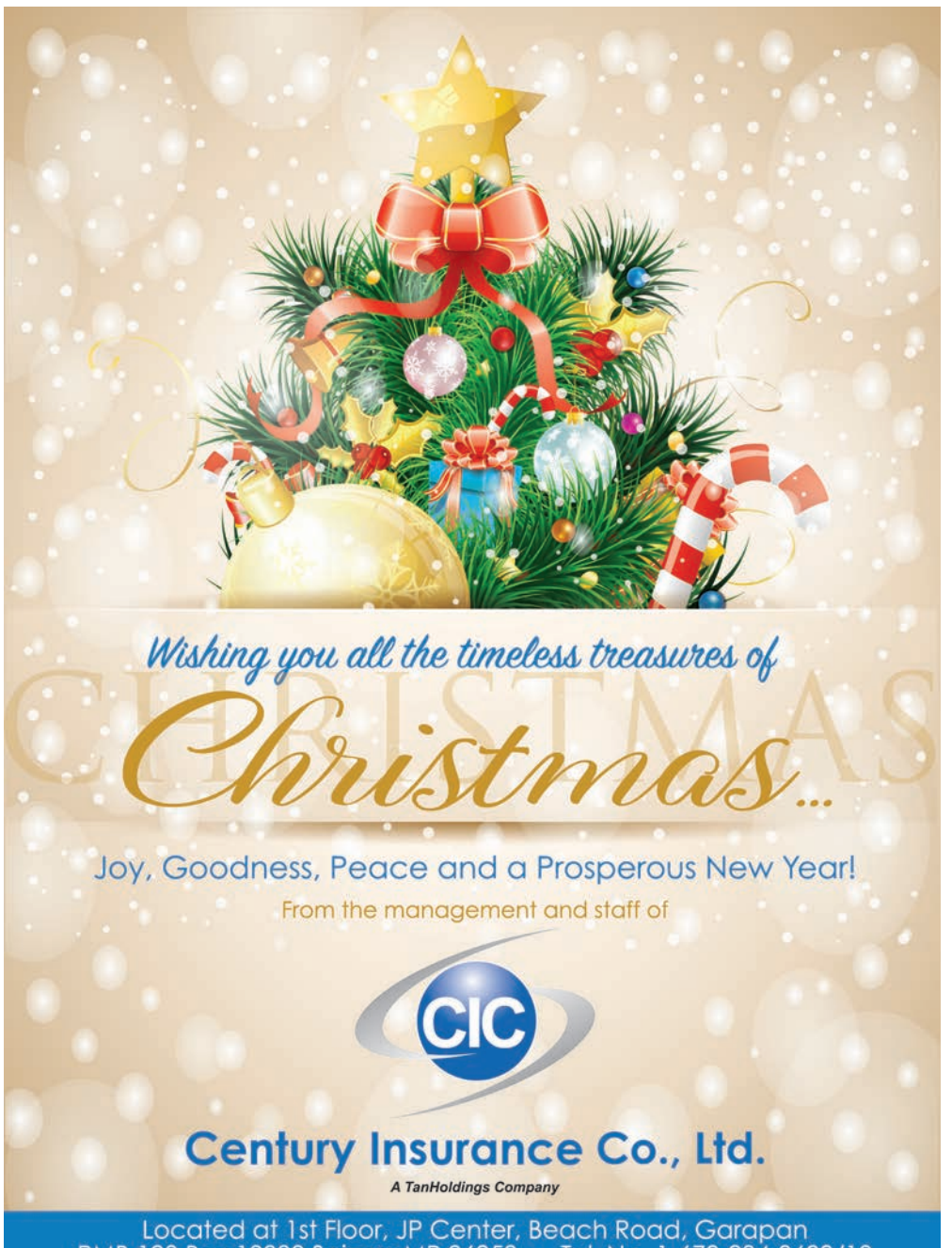
Wishing you a bright & safe Holiday Season!
May you celebrate love, peace,
and happiness with your family and in your home.
Merry Christmas!
from our FISG Family to yours!
THE FISG
Financial & Insurance Services Group, Inc.
Where the Hafa Adai Spirit & Personal Service is at its best.
LOANS • INSURANCE • MONEY CERTIFICATES
FISG Building, Micro Beach Road, Garapan | Tel. Nos. 234-8615 • 234-5706 | Business Hours: Monday to Thursday: 8:30am-4:30pm | Friday: 9:30am-5:30pm

SCHMIDT OCEAN INSTITUTE

Crabs gather around a hydrothermal vent 3,500 meters deep.

SCHMIDT OCEAN INSTITUTE

Scientists and pilots watching the live video feed, exploring the Mariana Back-arc with SuBastian.


Wishing you all the timeless treasures of
Christmas...
Joy, Goodness, Peace and a Prosperous New Year!
From the management and staff of
CIC
Century Insurance Co., Ltd.
A TanHoldings Company
Located at 1st Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan
PMB 193 Box 10000 Saipan MP 96950 • Tel. No. 1-670-234-0609/10

SAIPAN
COMFORT
HOMES
ISLAND COMFORT LIVING
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
BRAND NEW, AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN LOWER DANDAN VILLAGE
ACROSS NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE (NMC)
CALL (670) 235-7263
OR EMAIL US AT LEASING@SAIPANCOMFORTHOMES.NET
2 BEDROOM 2 BATHROOM UNITS AVAILABLE FEB. 2017
PLEASE APPLY AT TRIPLE J CORPORATE OFFICE BESIDE SANDY BEACH IN CHALAN KANOA.

Our family wishes you and yours a
Christmas rich with family love,
warm with friendship and blessed with the
joys of the holiday season.
And our best wishes for a new year happy
with life's goodness and prosperity.
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year.
Kilili
Andrea & family
Paid for by: Kilili for Congress

OPEN WATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

High school students from Koumyou Gakuen in Kanagawa, Japan, dive at Obyan Beach, Saipan, on Dec. 15, 2016. The group is among 73 students in the 14th annual PADI Open Water Certification class conducted at Laulau Beach on Dec. 12-13, 2017, by Mariana Sports Club and instructors from Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From the management and staff

SAIPAN SHIPPING COMPANY SINCE 1956

SAIPAN
Latitude 15° 12' N
Longitude 145° 45' E

SAIPAN SHIPPING COMPANY, INC.
TEL: 670-322-9706
FAX: 670-322-3183/1981
EMAIL: saiship@saipoanshipping.com
www.saipanshipping.com

TINIAN
Latitude 15°
Longitude 145° 38' E

TINIAN MARINE STEVEDORE, INC.
TEL: 670-322-9240
FAX: 670-322-8568
EMAIL: saisteve@pticom.com

ROTA
Latitude 14° 10' N
Longitude 145° 15' E

ISLA SHIPPING, ROTA
TEL: 670-532-3117
FAX: 670-532-9888
EMAIL: islashipping@yahoo.com

GUAM
Latitude 13° 30' N
Longitude 144° 40' E

MARIANAS STEAMSHIP AGENCIES, INC.
Tel: 671-633-6740/6741
Fax: 671-633-6737/6742
Email: info@msa-guam.com
www.msa-guam.com

INTER-ISLAND CARGO • SHIPPING AGENCY • VESSEL OPERATOR • CHARTERERS

IT&E treats *man'amko* to a makeover

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E product manager Natashia Tomokane, center, takes a photo with the man'amko after their makeover, courtesy of IT&E.

Continuing its annual tradition of providing the island's *man'amko* with a holiday treat, IT&E recently made available manicure, pedicure, hair cut color, and blow dry services free of charge for the members of the CNMI Aging Center.

"It was great to see all the *man'amko* with huge smiles on their faces as they were receiving manicures, pedicures, and hair styling services," said IT&E general manager Rose A. Soledad. "This is definitely one of the most special activities that we look forward to hosting every year."

"Our company considers it an extraordinary privilege to be part of the Aging Center's holiday celebration," Soledad added. "This annual tradition is important for the company and we are committed to doing more to see those big smiles throughout the year!"

According to Soledad, IT&E sought the help of seven stylists, barbers, and manicurists to help with the makeovers.

"We were delighted to see that even the beauty and hair experts were also having fun as they interacted with the *man'amko*," Soledad said. "Overall, everyone had a wonderful time.

IT&E also expressed gratitude to the leadership of the CNMI Aging Center for their help in coordinating the event. ***(IT&E)***

Special marine advisory

Fresh to strong trade winds and combined seas of 9 to 12 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft into the weekend.

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6pm tomorrow, Saturday.

For east facing reefs, surf will be hazardous at 10 to 12 feet through Saturday. The surf will decrease below hazardous levels Saturday night.

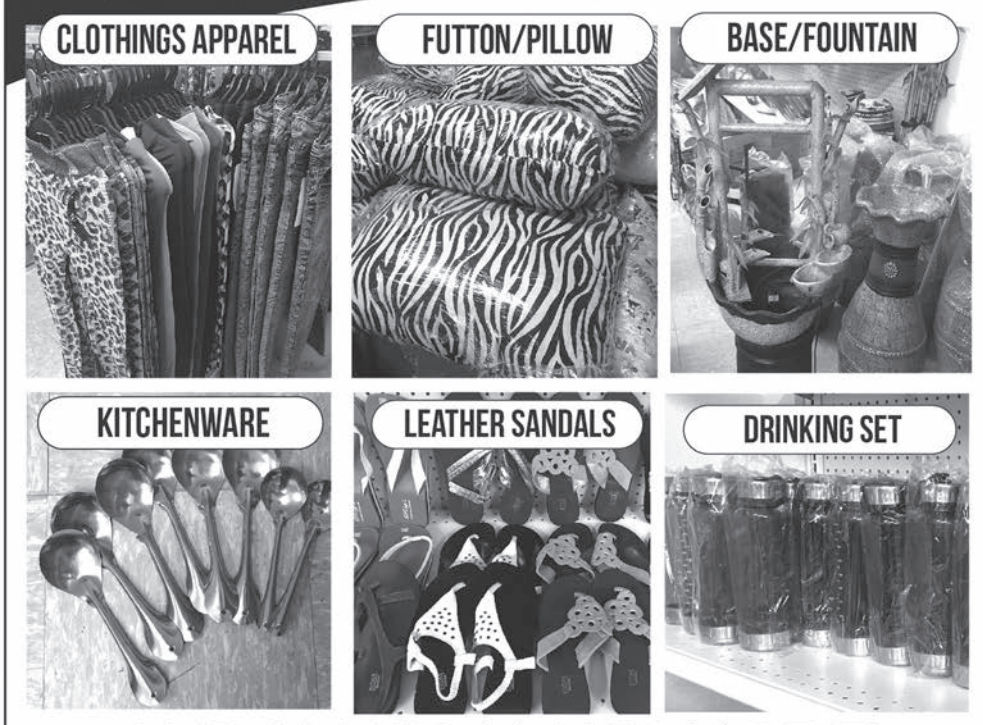
For north facing reefs, the surf will subside below hazardous level today, Friday.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm Saturday. Fresh to strong trade winds and combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft the next few days.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. Avoid venturing near reefs along exposed beaches, especially those facing north and east. Rip currents will be life-threatening. ***(EOC)***

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS • EDUCATION • HOPE
Season's Greetings to Everyone!
A Christmas message from the Commonwealth Cancer Association.
Give yourself and your loved ones a gift this Christmas season, get your free visual screening for Oral Cancer at any of the dental clinics on Saipan. Just give them a call to find out when's the best time for you to walk in.
We also urge everyone to discuss a preventive and screening program with their health care provided and become aware that they are at risk of getting cancer.
Nancy Gottfried
Merry Christmas and a Joyous, Healthy & Properous New Year!

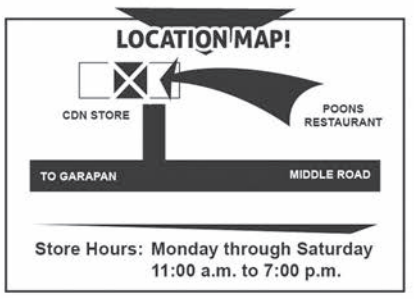
GRAND OPENING
BARGAIN ITEMS
SALE•SALE•SALE•SALE



AND MANY, MANY MORE!

GRAND OPENING ON
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

CDN STORE
Garapan/ China Town, Middle Road
Besides Top-Notch store. Tel.: 287-6229



AIR FORCE RESERVE'S 624TH AEROSPACE MEDICINE FLIGHT

Saipan's Tudela is new 624th commander

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
U.S. Air Force Col. Kenneth Lute, 624th Regional Support Group commander, passes the 624th Aerospace Medicine Flight's guidon to the incoming commander Lt. Col. John Tudela during an assumption of command ceremony Dec. 11, 2016 at the Sunrise Conference Center, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—Lt. Col. John M. Tudela, a native Chamorro from Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, assumed command of the Air Force Reserve's 624th Aerospace Medicine Flight, during an assumption of command ceremony on Dec. 11 at the Sunrise conference center.

As commander, Tudela is responsible for the training of medical personnel to ensure full wartime mission capability, provide physical exams and immunizations to 624 RSG units in Guam, and expeditiously mobilize medically ready and expert personnel to staff a 50-bed aeromedical staging facility in place or in a deployed location.

"I am happy to stand before you and officially take on this position to lead you toward what will be a storied career for all of us, Team 624 AMDF," said Tudela during the ceremony.

Tudela addressed his new command, expressing the importance of teamwork.

"As my family, friends, colleagues and superiors bear witness today, I am in it… to win it! Let's truly make it count," said Tudela. "Every single member of the 624th AMDF has an important job to do and we cannot be successful without your expertise, experience and willingness to go all in."

Tudela began his military career by receiving a direct commission into the U.S. Air Force as a captain in 2002. He served active duty tours at Yokota Air Base, Japan, and Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nevada. After separating from active duty in 2008, Tudela spent time honing his skills and expertise as a civilian physician practicing in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

In 2010, he returned to serve in the Air Force Reserve and completed his training as a residency trained flight surgeon. From 2010-2012 he was assigned to the 624th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam before transferring to the 624th AMDF, in Guam, to serve as the Chief of Aerospace Medicine where he ensured the medical readiness for more than 200 members.

In his civilian career, Tudela continues to practice medicine on the island of Saipan and serves as the current director of Medical Affairs at the Commonwealth Health Center. ***(PR)***

USED OFFSET AND LETTERPRESS PRINTING MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT
FOR SALE

- SPEED MASTER 102-5 COLORS
- SPEED MASTER 102-4 COLORS
- MIEHLE
- DG 75 – Continuous form
- MOZP
- GTO 52 – SINGLE COLOR
- MULTILITH
- LAWSON CUTTER
- POLAR CUTTER
- SCREEN KATANA IMAGESETTER
- ECRM STINGRAY 63Q
- SMYTH SEWING MACHINE
- HEIDELBERG FLATBED
- HEIDELBERG WINDWILL
- FOLDING MACHINE
- MULLER MARTINI
- HOT LAMINATING MACHINE
- PERFECT BINDING MACHINE
- ROTARY PERFECT BINDING MACHINE

"VARIOUS OFFICE TABLE, CHAIRS, CABINETS AND EQUIPMENT"

"AS IS", "WHERE IS" BASIS ONLY
SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY

Interested buyer may contact
Ariel Mariano at 233-2898 ext. 33 or
Mario Mayuga at 285-1021

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BID
CUC-ITB-17-015

SALE AND REMOVAL OF SCRAP MATERIALS FROM THE WAREHOUSE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Scrap materials located in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained at no charge upon registration at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-17-015, CUC Sale & Removal of Scrap Materials from the Warehouse"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the scrap materials. CUC shall transfer and assign the scrap materials to the prospective bidder in an "As is, Where is" condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the scrap materials.

The scrap materials may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Warehouse Division at telephone no. 322-6585.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 9, 2017, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, THAT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL SYSTEM SHALL BE APPLIED AND ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AS DEFINED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC LAW 6 - 10, REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, RELIGION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR BELIEF, MARITAL STATUS, DISABILITY OR PLACE OF ORIGIN. APPLICANTS FOR THIS POSITION MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN OR IS ELIGIBLE AND AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN THE U.S., INCLUDING THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

CONTINUOUS & UNTIL FILLED JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LOCATION	POSITION/TITLE	TOTAL POSITION	JVA NO.	CLOSING DATE
San Vicente Elem. School, William S. Reyes Elem.School	Teacher Aide (Chamorro and Carolinian Language Heritage Studies) (Amendment V) (ReAnnouncement V)	1	PSS 2015-181	May 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Speech Language Pathologist (ReAnnouncement V)	1	PSS 2014-138	Oct. 09, 2015 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Speech Language Pathologist	1	PSS 2015-294	Oct. 20, 2015 – Until Filled
Early Intervention Program	Speech Language Pathologist	1	PSS 2015-295	Oct. 20, 2015 – Until Filled
Office of Student Support Services	Classroom Teacher (ELL/Literacy) Amendment/ReAnnouncement	1	PSS 2015-257	Nov. 19, 2015 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2015-332	Dec. 15, 2015 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Instructor – Sign Language Interpreting	1	PSS 2016-003	Jan.26, 2016 – Until Filled
JROTC Program	JROTC Army Instructor (Military Property Specialist)	1	PSS 2016-004	Feb. 08, 2016 – Until Filled
JROTC Program	Director of Army Instruction	1	PSS 2016-005	Feb. 08, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Special Education School Counselor – Behavioral Specialist (Amendment)		PSS 2016-015	March 8, 2016 – Until Filled
Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies	Instructor I (CCLHS) (Re-Announcement) Program, San Vicente Elem. School	1	PSS 2016-023	May 2, 2016 – Until Filled
Early Head Start/Head Start Program	Early Head Start Family Partnership (Re-Announcement II)	1	PSS 2015-311	April 19, 2016 – Until Filled
Early Head Start/Head Start Program	Early Head Start Secretary I (Re-Announcement II)	1	PSS 2015-212	April 19, 2016 – Until Filled
Early Head Start/Head Start Program	Practice Based Coach (Re-Announcement VI)	1	PSS 2014-172	April 19, 2016 – Until Filled
Food & Nutrition Services Office	Part-Time Food Monitor (3 positions) (Re-Announcement)	3	PSS 2015-308	May 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Federal Programs Office	Social Media Intern	1	PSS 2016-036	May 2, 2016 – Until Filled
Food & Nutrition Services Office	Part-Time Food Monitor (Re-Announcement II)	1	PSS 2015-317	May 18, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Occupational Therapist III-IV (Re-Announcement XXXVII – 1 Position)	1	PSS 2012-074	May 18, 2016 – Until Filled
Kagman High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-052	May 23, 2016 – Until Filled
Food & Nutrition Services Office	Nutrition Assistant Monitor (Re-Announcement II)	1	PSS 2015-310	May 26, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Teacher Aide	1	PSS 2016-063	June 16, 2016 – Until Filled
Sinapalo Elementary School	Instructor I (CCLHS)	1	PSS 2016-107	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
William S. Reyes Elementary School	Instructor I (CCLHS)	1	PSS 2016-111	July 29, 2016 – Until Filled
Head Start Program, Tinian	Family Partnership Advocate (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2015-336	July 29, 2016 – Until Filled
Garapan Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-121	Aug. 11, 2016 – Until
Marianas High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-123	Aug. 11, 2016 – Until Filled
Tinian Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-136	Aug. 11, 2016 – Until Filled
Saipan Southern High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-142	Sep. 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Oleai Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (2 Positions)	2	PSS 2016-150	Sep. 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Sinapalo Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (2 Positions)	2	PSS 2016-151	Sep. 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	Tinian Jr. Sr. High School	1	PSS 2016-160	Sep. 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Saipan, Tinian, Rota	Distance Education Course Online Teachers (Re-Announcement III)	1	PSS 2015-320	Sep. 16-Until Filled
Saipan, Tinian, Rota Schools	Instructional Technology Instructor (24 Positions)	24	PSS 2016-163	Sep. 13, 2016 – Until Filled
Oleai Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (2 Positions)	2	PSS 2016-165	Sep. 13, 2016 – Until Filled
Garapan Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-170	Sep. 13, 2016 – Until Filled
Administrative Services Office	Webmaster (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-147	Sep.21, 2016 – Until Filled
Student Support Services	Education Specialist I-V (Family Engagement & Community Involvement Coordinator) (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-148	Sep.21, 2016 – Until Filled
Francisco M. Sablan Middle School	Instructor (CCLHS) (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-144	Sep. 21, 2016 – Until Filled
Office of Student Support Services	Education Specialist III-V (ELL Program Coordinator)	1	PSS 2016-172	Sep. 28, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (4 Positions)	4	PSS 2016-177	Sep. 28, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Education Psychologist	1	PSS 2016-181	Sep. 28, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Special Education School Counselor – Behavioral Specialist	1	PSS 2016-182	Sep. 28, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-183	Sep. 28, 2016 – Until Filled
Office of Curriculum & Instruction	Education Specialist I-V (Social Studies Program Coordinator)	1	PSS 2016-185	Sep. 28, 2016 – Until Filled
Office of Student Support Services	Instructional Technology Director	1	PSS 2016-046	Oct. 25, 2016 – Until Filled
Saipan Southern High School	School Librarian	1	PSS 2016-188	Oct. 25, 2016 – Until Filled
DanDan Middle School	Classroom Teacher (Amendment)	1	PSS 2016-190	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Hopwood Jr. High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-192	Oct. 25, 2016 – Until Filled
Hopwood Jr. High School	School Vice Principal I-II	1	PSS 2016-193	Oct. 25, 2016 – Until Filled
ChaCha Ocean View Middle School	School Vice Principal I-II (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-133	Oct. 25, 2016 – Until Filled
Tinian Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-199	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Leliyal Akkabwung Language Immersion Project	Classroom Teacher	1	PSS 2016-206	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Saipan Southern High School	School Vice Principal I-II (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-132	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Office of Curriculum & Instruction	Education Specialist I-V (English Language Arts) (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-031	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Office of Curriculum & Instruction	Education Specialist Education Specialist I-V (Science Program Coordinator) (Re-Announcement III)	1	PSS 2016-032	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until
Office of Accountability, Research, and Evaluation	Education Specialist III-V (School and Program Accountability Program Coordinator) (Re-Announcement III)	1	PSS 2016-109	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Koblerville Elementary School	Custodial Worker (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-195	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Kagman High School	Vice Principal I-II	1	PSS 2016-214	Dec. 09-23, 2016
Kagman Elementary School	School Nurse III-IV (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-196	Dec. 09, 2016 – Until Filled
Sinapalo Elementary School	Administrative Specialist I-II (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-203	Dec. 09-23, 2016
Koblerville Elementary School	Building Maintenance Worker (Amendment/Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-138	Dec. 15 – 29, 2016
Saipan, Rota, Tinian	Substitute Teacher	1	PSS 2016-215	Dec. 15, 2016 – Until Filled
Kagman High School	Classroom Teacher	1	PSS 2016-217	Dec. 15, 2016 – Until Filled
Early Head Start/Head Start Program	Early Head Start/ Head Start Director	1	PSS 2016-218	Dec. 15 – 29, 2016
Office of the Commissioner of Education	Director of Finance (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-212	Dec. 22, 2016 – Jan. 05, 2017
Oleai Elementary School	Teacher Aide (Heroes to Teacher)	1	PSS 2016-216	Dec. 22, 2016 – Jan. 05, 2017
Office of the Commissioner of Education	School Attendance Review Committee Coordinator	1	PSS 2016-219	Dec. 22, 2016 – Jan. 05, 2017
Office of the Commissioner of Education	Administrative Specialist I-II	1	PSS 2016-220	Dec. 22, 2016 – Jan. 05, 2017

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT ISETA CT., CAPITOL HILL BUILDING #1202 SAIPAN CNMI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE; (2) TRANSCRIPTS; (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS); (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER; (5) RESUME; AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, ISETA CT., CAPITOL HILL BUILDING #1202 SAIPAN CNMI, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 664-3827. FREE COPY.

Business

Economy healed under Obama, but unhappy voters chose Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—He was a first-term senator-turned-president, a former law professor with little experience in economics or management. When he entered the White House he had one essential task: piece together the shards of a shattered U.S. economy.

It wasn't smooth and it wasn't fast. But President Barack Obama will leave behind, by most measures, an economy far stronger than the one he inherited. Unemployment is 4.6 percent, a nine-year low. Stocks keep setting highs. An additional 20 million Americans have health insurance coverage. The nation has shifted toward cleaner energy sources: natural gas, wind and solar.

Yet it's also an economy that left many people feeling neglected. Polling after the November election found that nearly two-thirds of voters described the economy as "not so good" or "poor."

The costs of housing, college and prescription drugs kept outpacing paychecks. Job options had been dwindling for workers with only high school diplomas even before Obama took office, but the downturn and slow recovery magnified the pain of that trend. Many people gave up looking for work. Struggling rural towns never enjoyed the uplift that benefited major cities.

Fueled in part by such challenges, voters chose to pass the presidency to Donald Trump, a Republican who had railed against a weak economy and promised to undo many of Obama's policies.

The gap between the economy's overall health and Americans' lingering anxieties cuts to the heart of Obama's legacy. The president and his team took historic actions to pull the economy back from the brink. But those very steps failed to help swaths of America and turned many people against his policies, setting the stage for Trump's nationalist platform.

"We saved the economy from a failing financial system, though we lost the country doing it," Obama's first treasury secretary, Tim Geithner, concluded in his 2014 memoirs.

Economic problems that had been simmering for decades started to boil with the Great Recession of 2007-2009. It suddenly became Obama's responsibility to address problems that were both immediate and generations in the making.

Building on measures taken by George W. Bush's administration, Obama pumped $412 billion into teetering banks, troubled financial firms and the struggling automakers General Motors and Chrysler. The infusion was stigmatized for being a government bailout, though the money was ultimately repaid.

Then there was the Recovery Act, known as the "stimulus," enacted less than a month after Obama took the oath of office in 2009. Administration estimates initially suggested that the $836 billion stimulus—a mix of tax cuts, public investments and direct aid—would prevent unemployment from rising above 8 percent.

Those projections were faulty, based on economic figures that were later downgraded. The 8 percent unemployment projection ultimately became a political albatross as the rate peaked at 10 percent that October—proof to some Republicans that the stimulus had failed.

Feds: Pension exec moved $2B for coke, hookers, other bribes

NEW YORK (AP)—A former top official at the country's third-largest pension fund and two broker-dealers were charged Wednesday in what a federal prosecutor described as a classic bribery scheme that steered $2 billion in trades in exchange for drugs, prostitutes, vacations and U.S. Open tennis tickets.

"The hard-earned pension savings of New Yorkers should never serve as a vehicle for corrupt, personal enrichment," Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in a statement, calling the alleged pay-for-play arrangement a "classic, quid-pro-quo bribery scheme."

Navnoor Kang, the ex-head of the $184 billion New York State Common Retirement Fund's fixed income trades, received more than $100,000 worth of bribes in the form of trips, gifts, luxury hotel stays and other payoffs from broker-dealers Deborah Kelley and Gregg Schonhorn, prosecutors said.

Kang, 38, was arrested in Portland, Oregon, on securities fraud, honest service wire fraud, conspiracy and obstruction of justice charges.

His attorney, Lauren DeSantis-Then, said her client denies all the charges.

"Mr. Kang is not guilty and we look forward to our day in court," she said.

Kelley, 58, of Piedmont, California, was expected to surrender, authorities said. Her attorney didn't immediately return a request for comment.

Schonhorn, 45, of Short Hills, New Jersey, has pleaded guilty and is cooperating with federal authorities, court papers show. His lawyer didn't immediately return a request for comment.

Regulators found that Kang steered about $2 billion in fixed-income trades to firms represented by Kelley and Schonhorn beginning in early 2014, resulting in millions of dollars in commissions, of which the two earned between 35 and 40 percent, according to an indictment.

In that time, securities investigators found that the firms' fixed-income business surged, with one of them increasing its domestic bond transactions from zero at the end of fiscal year 2013 to $2.378 billion at the end of fiscal year 2016, making it one of the top broker dealers doing state pension fund business, according to the complaint.

Prosecutors said that in exchange, Kang received a $10,000 all-expenses-paid trip to Montreal, Canada; a ski trip to Park City, Utah; tickets to a Paul McCartney concert in New Orleans; a $17,420 Panerai wristwatch; dinners at upscale restaurants; nights out at strip clubs; prostitutes; and cocaine.

The state's pension fund has been the source of scandal before.

Edward C. Arriola
Attorney-at-Law
Sablan Bldg., Suite 1-F
San Jose, Saipan
P.O. Box 501788
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 233-5507
Fax: (670) 233-5509

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JUAN N. CAMACHO, Deceased.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0253) NOTICE OF HEARING) Date: January 19, 2017) Time: 9:00 a.m.) Judge: Camacho

To: All creditors, claimants, Pedro Babauta Camacho, Jose Babauta Camacho, Vicente Camacho Terlaje, Edward Terlaje, Anthony Terlaje Palacios, Marla Terlaje Palacios, Jose Camacho Terlaje, Soledad Terlaje, Janice Reyes Camacho, Pauline Reyes Iglecias, Joyce Reyes Camacho, Antonnett Reyes Manglona, Magdalena Terlaje Hazen, Antonia Terlaje Woodworth, Mark S. Pangelinan, Raynee Terlaje Pangelinan, Sabrina Terlaje Pangelinan, Mark Dave Jr. Terlaje Pangelinan, Regina Frances Terlaje Pangelinan, Lewis Jonathan T. Camacho, Lee Charles T. Camacho, Joseph Lance T. Camacho, Samantha S.M.T. Camacho, Eleonita C. Camacho, Christopher Roman C. Camacho, Ivanka C. Camacho, John Gregorio C. Camacho, Milliana Maria C. Camacho, Maria Carmen Camacho Maratita, Nilda Susana Camacho Sykes, Jacqueline Remedio Camacho Aldan, Jason Roque Sablan Camacho, Vicente Camacho Sablan, Jose Camacho Sablan, Lourdes Sablan Kim, Christina Maria Camacho Sablan, Juan Camacho Sablan, Margarita Camacho Sablan, Ricardo Camacho Sablan, Thomas Camacho Sablan, Magdalena Sablan Hwang, Anthony Sablan Camacho, Jr., Frances Camacho Tudela, Vivian Camacho Takai, Pauline Camacho Aizon, and Joyce Camacho Villagomez.

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for letters of administration seeking appointment of **ANNIE TERLAJE PICKELSIMER**, as Administratix for the Estate of JUAN N. CAMACHO ("deceased"), was filed in the above-entitled Court. A hearing has been set for the above-entitled matter and will be held in Courtroom 220A of the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice-Guma Hustisia-Imwal Aweewe, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at 9:00 a.m., on January 19, 2017.

All persons who having any objection to the petition, or having a claim against the estate of the deceased, should file their claim with the Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication.

Dated this 21st day of December, 2016.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

JENNIFER DOCKTER
LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero , San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127 Saipan, MP 96950-1127
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioner.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CALISTRO CAMACHO CABRERA, Deseased.) Civil Action) No. 16-0251) **NOTICE OF HEARINGS and NOTICE TO CREDITORS**) Date: January 19, 2017) Time: 9:00 a.m.) Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HIS ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, James Cabrera, has filed a Petition For Letters of Administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. P. 15.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **Thursday, January 19, 2017** in Courtroom 220, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to NMI R. of Prob. P. 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Jennifer Dockter at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 14th day of December, 2016.

/S/ JENNIFER DOCKTER (F0465)
Attorney for Petitioner

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Friday, December 30, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Hearing Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
      1) November 30, 2016

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[1]

III. **REPORTS**
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
   a. NMI Employees' DC Retirement Plan

V. **NEW BUSINESS**
   a. Bridge Investment Group, LLC's Letter dated December 13, 2016
   b. Tinian Entertainment Company, Ltd. re: Section 53 (3) of the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989

VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[2]
VII. **MISCELLANEOUS/ ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

EXECUTIVE HOME WITH PANORAMIC OCEAN VIEW, LAULAU HEIGHTS, SAIPAN

NOW UP FOR AUCTION!

AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT THE LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER ON JANUARY 10, 2017 AT 1:00 P.M.

This is a Foreclosure Auction as authorized under Order of the Superior Court in Civil Action No. 15-0199

PLACE: Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, D' Torres Bldg, Garapan, Saipan

Contact Auctioneer, Mich Brel at 235-8060 or via email at brelmich@gmail.com for more information.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282
Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUPursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a joint meeting with the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA") Board of Directors on **Thursday, December 29, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments**

III. Joint Meeting with CUC and CPA Board of Directors
   1. Omnibus Settlement Agreement

IV. Executive Session***
   1. Consultation with Legal Counsel on legal matters.

V. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Nation

‘Obamacare’ holding its own: 6.4M signed up so far

WASHINGTON (AP)—”Obamacare” seems to be holding its own. The administration said Wednesday that 6.4 million people have enrolled for subsidized private coverage through HealthCare.gov, ahead of last year’s pace.

Despite rising premiums, dwindling insurers and the Republican vow to repeal President Barack Obama’s health care law, about 400,000 more people signed up through Monday than for a comparable period in 2015, the Health and Human Services Department said.

“Today’s enrollment numbers confirm that doomsday predictions about the marketplace are not bearing out,” said HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell.

Still, it’s too early for supporters of the Affordable Care Act, or ACA, to say “I told you so.”

It’s unclear if the administration will meet its target of 13.8 million sign-ups. That’s partly because the share of new customers is down when compared with current consumers re-upping for another year.

New customers are 32 percent of the total this year versus 40 percent around the same time last year. Administration officials said they’re going to focus on getting more new customers between now and the end of open enrollment Jan. 31.

Other vital signs for HealthCare.gov were encouraging.

“There are zero signs that the ACA’s marketplaces are in danger of imminent collapse,” said Larry Levitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation, who has followed the health care law from its inception.

That carries an implicit warning for President-elect Donald Trump and congressional Republicans, who have promised to move quickly to repeal the law. That repeal would be followed by a GOP-inspired replacement. Although immediate changes affecting 2017 are unlikely, the whole process could take several years, creating uncertainty for people with coverage.

As if on cue, Democratic governors Wednesday fired off a letter to GOP congressional leaders, calling the repeal plan “nothing more than a Washington, D.C., bait-and-switch” that would leave millions uninsured and shift to states an estimated $69 billion in uncompensated care costs over a decade.

The statistics released Wednesday are for 39 states served by the federal online insurance marketplace. Numbers from states running their own markets have not been fully tallied and will be added later, raising the total. Toward the end of this month, several million current customers who are being re-enrolled automatically will be added to the count.

In bitter divide, repeal of North Carolina LGBT law fails

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Amid deepening acrimony, a supposedly bipartisan deal to kill the North Carolina law known as the “bathroom bill” fell apart Wednesday night, ensuring the likelihood that global corporations and national sports events will continue to stay away from the state.

The law limits protections for LGBT people and was best known for a provision that requires transgender people to use public restrooms corresponding to the gender on their birth certificates. It was passed earlier this year after Charlotte officials approved a sweeping anti-discrimination ordinance.

The repeal compromise touted by both Democratic Gov.-elect Roy Cooper and GOP Gov. Pat McCrory called for Charlotte to do away with its ordinance. In exchange, lawmakers would undo the LGBT law.

But both sides balked: GOP lawmakers cried foul when Charlotte leaders initially left part of the city’s ordinance in place. And when the Senate bill called for a months-long ban on cities passing similar ordinances, Democrats said Republicans were going back on their promise. Cooper said the moratorium essentially doubled down on discrimination.

“The legislature had a chance to do the right thing for North Carolina, and they failed,” he said. “This was our best chance. It cannot be our last chance.”

The troubles in reaching a resolution exposed the intense distrust within the legislature that has only intensified over the years, especially since Republicans took over control of state government in 2013. Cooper’s victory was greeted last week by Republicans acting in a special session to strip away several powers.

Researchers: Nearly 400 drug addicts helped in police effort

BOSTON (AP)—A novel drug addiction program developed in a small Massachusetts fishing town and since replicated in dozens of cities nationwide was able to place almost 400 addicts into treatment nearly each time they sought it during the first year of operation, researchers say in a report being published Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The team from the Boston Medical Center and Boston University’s School of Public Health say 376 addicts sought assistance 429 times from the Gloucester Police Department’s Angel program from June 2015 to May 2016. They received the help they needed nearly 95 percent of the time, researchers say.

Davida Schiff, a Boston Medical Center doctor and lead author of the report, said that rate is far higher than the 50 to 60 percent for similar, hospital-based initiatives.

Part of the reason, she said, is that Gloucester’s addicts were voluntarily coming to police seeking help. “They were motivated individuals that came to the station ready to engage in care,” Schiff said.

The report also notes that Gloucester police established a relationship with a local treatment center to make placement easier. Its officers were working round-the-clock to secure the placements. And Massachusetts mandates health coverage for drug detoxification.

Law enforcement officials in communities that have adopted Gloucester-like heroin initiatives say the report helps validate their work.

“Police officers do not get to pick and choose who they help, and that puts us in a position to make a major impact on the heroin and opioid epidemic,” said Frederick Ryan, police chief in the Boston suburb of Arlington.

The Angel program has been replicated in some form by more than 150 police departments in 28 states since it was launched in June 2015. It gained notoriety after the then-police chief promised heroin addicts they could turn in their drugs at the police station without fear of arrest, so long as they agreed to start treatment.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-OMB-070

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 23, 2017 TIME: 1:00 P.M.

“PURCHASE OF SIX (6) LAPTOPS AND TWO (2) DESKTOP COMPUTERS FOR THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN**, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DLNR/DFW-063

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 23, 2017 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

“BOAT CHARTER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CCNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DPW/ASD-068

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 23, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

“PURCHAS OF A CLASS “H” VEHICLE – 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK (4 FULL DOORS) WITH CAMPER SHELL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN**, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO. ITB17-DPS-065 (CIF-TINIAN)

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 23, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS “F” VEHICLES – 4X4 PICK UP TRUCK (FOUR (4) FULL DOORS) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, TINIAN BRANCH”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN**, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

/S/ JUAN E. SANTOS, JR.
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD, TINIAN DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO. ITB17-DPW/SWMD-067

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 23, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF A CLASS “H” VEHICLE – 4X2 PICK-UP TRUCK (4 DOORS, ACCESS OR CREW CAB) WITH ALUMINUM FLAT BED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN**, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DPW/BSC-069

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 23, 2017 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

“OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDING SAFETY CODE”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN**, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D).

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-BECQ/DCRM-064

SUBMISSION: JANUARY 23, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“TO DESIGN AND ADMINISTER A CNMI MAJOR SITING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL – DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT”

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **DECEMBER 23, 2016** BY EMAIL REQUEST TO **erinderrington@becq.gov.mp**. **QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE E-MAILED TO **erinderrington@becq.gov.mp** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **JANUARY 11, 2017**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Asia

Rahul Gandhi accuses India's PM Modi of being paid bribes

NEW DELHI (AP)—Leading opposition figure Rahul Gandhi demanded an investigation into allegations that two Indian conglomerates paid millions of rupees as bribes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2013-14 when he was governing a western state.

Gandhi, the Congress Party vice president and scion of India's Nehru-Gandhi family, said the allegations were found in diary notes and computer records of the Sahara Group and the Birla Group and were in possession of income tax authorities.

"Why these accusations are not being probed?" Gandhi asked Wednesday at a party meeting in Gujarat state. Modi was the state's top elected official before he became prime minister in May 2014.

Gandhi said in his speech that tax authorities had looked into the allegations and favored a full investigation. But the government has not confirmed that and Sahara and Birla have not commented on the allegations.

"We want an independent inquiry. We want you (Modi) to come forward and tell the country yourself," Gandhi demanded.

G. V. L. Narsimha Rao, a spokesman for Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, dismissed Gandhi's accusations as baseless and asked him to file a criminal case against Modi.

Earlier this month, Gandhi accused Modi and BJP officials of not allowing him to speak in parliament during the session that ended last week. Gandhi had claimed he had evidence of "personal corruption of Prime Minister Modi," but did not reveal what it was.

Sambit Patra, another BJP spokesman, accused Gandhi of "talking irrelevant things to stay relevant" and said his comments must be discounted. He told reporters that the allegations had previously been found to be unsubstantiated.

Gandhi has been highly critical of Modi's ban on Nov. 8 of high-value currency notes, which was intended to force tax evaders to give up their cash stockpiles but also created hardship for ordinary Indians. The sudden withdrawal of 86 percent of India's currency left cash in short supply, with retail sales stumbling and wholesale markets in turmoil. Hundreds of millions of people in India lack bank accounts and use cash to pay for everything from groceries to hospital stays to land purchases.

AP

India's opposition Congress party vice-president Rahul Gandhi addresses a rally in Mehsana, about 70 kilometers north of Ahmadabad, India, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2016.

Indonesia police kill 3 suspected militants, defuse bombs

TANGERANG, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian police said three suspected militants who were planning a holiday season suicide bombing were killed in a gunbattle Wednesday on the outskirts of Jakarta in the second imminent attack to be foiled in less than two weeks.

A residential neighborhood was evacuated after bombs were found in a house rented by the men. Police said they had found five low-explosive bombs made from potassium nitrate and defused three so far. Indonesia's TVOne reported numerous controlled explosions have occurred at the location.

The men planned to stage their attack on Christmas Day or New Year's Eve, said Jakarta police chief Mochamad Iriawan. They were to stab police officers in order to attract a crowd and then detonate bombs, he said.

The three men were killed during a violent confrontation with the police's anti-terror squad in a leafy residential compound in Tangerang, a Jakarta satellite city, after refusing an appeal from authorities to surrender.

National Police spokesman Rikwanto said the men threw explosives and fired guns at police. A fourth man, who was arrested in the neighborhood, had led police to the house used by the militants.

"Every year, Christmas and New Year's events are the target of terrorists to carry out amaliyah," Rikwanto told a news conference, using an Arabic term that's a byword for suicide bombing in militant circles.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, has carried out a sustained crackdown on Islamic militants since the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people. But a new threat has emerged in the past several years from militants who have switched allegiance to the Islamic State group and from new recruits. An attack in the capital Jakarta in January by IS sympathizers killed eight people, including the attackers.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan to boost coast guard to defend East China Sea islands

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's government announced Wednesday that it will bolster its coast guard capabilities to defend East China Sea islands that China also claims and regularly patrols. Japan controls the uninhabited islands, and Wednesday's decision by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and others would let Japan add to its maritime presence in the surrounding waters. Abe told the meeting that Japan needs to "substantially strengthen the structure and capabilities" of the coast guard. "We will urgently begin strengthening our (maritime safety) structure."

Authorities: Canadian tried to smuggle cat into New Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A Canadian woman who authorities say managed to hide her 4-year-old pet cat Bella in her handbag during a flight across the Pacific Ocean had her vacation cut short when border agents discovered the ruse at Auckland Airport. Ministry for Primary Industries spokesman Craig Hughes said Thursday that the woman was refused entry into the country and was forced to catch the next flight home with her cat. He called the woman's actions were "reckless and dangerous." New Zealand has strict regulations for importing pets. Cats and dogs from most approved countries must have an implanted microchip and be kept in quarantine for a minimum of 10 days after arrival.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE
SURPLUS VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (Authority) will sell at Public Auction, **December 23, 2016 at 1:00 PM** surplus vehicles and equipment at the Tinian Harbor, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Each vehicle or equipment will have a reasonable minimum bid cost. Bidders are requested to inspect the vehicles and equipment by contacting the Tinian Airport Manager at telephone number 433-9301, Monday to Friday, 08:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The vehicles and equipment will be sold "As Is" and "Where Is" and without Warranty. The successful bidder is required to pay 50% down payment on acceptance of bid. Balance shall be payable at the Tinian Airport Manager's Office, Tinian International Airport within 5 calendar days from auction closing date. Bidder shall only remove the vehicles or equipment from the Authority premises upon full payment of bid price. Failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment and equipment. Payment shall be in cash, cashier's check, or money order payable to CPA.

Inquiries may be directed to the Procurement Officer, Mr. Alex C. Tudela at telephone number 237-6563.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Christopher S. Tenorio
Acting Executive Director

Dated this 7th day of December, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TERMINAL ROOF LEAK REPAIRS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-003-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for roof leak repairs at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport Terminal, Project No. CPA-RA-003-13, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes overall construction management services for the duration of the project. Details are available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant, in writing via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, January 6, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall CM experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 30 points;
2. CM experience related to airport projects; – 30 points;
3. Level of proficiency in performing CM services promptly; and level of experience with the local and federal regulations and requirements; – 15 points;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Acting Executive Director

Date: December 12, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-17

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for **Solid Waste Collection Services** for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The **bid package** containing all the specifications, date of pre-bid meeting, and other requirements will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning **December 16, 2016** upon payment of **$100.00** to be made at CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

Bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, mentioned above until **2:00 PM LOCAL TIME, Friday, January 13, 2017**. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked: "Bid for Solid Waste Collection Services at the Saipan International Airport, Project No. CPA-IFB-003-17". Bidders are to submit one (1) original and three (3) copies.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Acting Executive Director

Date: December 16, 2016

World

Aleppo evacuations in heavy snow end brutal war chapter

BEIRUT (AP)—Hundreds of rebel fighters and civilians, including small children swaddled in thick blankets, were bused out of war-ravaged Aleppo in heavy snow on Wednesday as the evacuation of former rebel strongholds entered its final phase.

Scenes of buses slowly driving out of Aleppo in a shroud of white offered an evocative finale to what has been one of the most brutal chapters in Syria's civil war.

The departures from Aleppo pave the way for President Bashar Assad to assume full control there, after more than four years of fighting over Syria's largest city. It marks the most significant victory for Assad since an uprising against his family's four-decade rule swept the country in 2011.

The evacuations were set in motion last week after Syria's opposition agreed to surrender its last footholds in eastern Aleppo. Since then, about 25,000 fighters and civilians have been bused out, according to the United Nations. On Wednesday, buses began evacuating the last rebels and civilians, an estimated 3,000 people.

By nightfall, 25 buses carrying hundreds of people had driven in a rare snow storm from eastern Aleppo to opposition-held areas in the countryside near the city, said opposition activist Ahmad Primo, who was monitoring arrivals at the main drop-off point in the Rashideen district.

The evacuees got off the buses wearing thick jackets and carrying sacks with belongings. One woman dressed in a black robe and face veil carried a small child swaddled in a heavy yellow blanket. A man held a toddler whose face was peeking out from under a blanket shielding him from falling snow.

The opposition's Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Wednesday evening that with the evacuation of the last group of rebels from eastern Aleppo, Assad was in full control, save for a few positions on the western outskirts of the city that were still in rebel hands.

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross said patients and all those requiring medical care had been evacuated from the last hospital in the city's east.

AP

In this image made from video and posted online by Validated UGC on Thursday, April 28, 2016, a civil defense worker carries a child after airstrikes hit Aleppo, Syria.

Pro-government forces repeatedly struck medical facilities in rebel-held neighborhoods in their push to expel the opposition from Aleppo this year. In November, the U.N. said it believed there were no more functioning medical facilities in the eastern part of the city.

Wednesday's bus movements came after evacuations had been suspended for 24 hours, one of several snags and delays since the first bus convoys left the city last week.

Frequent disagreements have erupted between the rebels and the government, as well as among rebel groups, over compliance with a wider deal that also includes evacuations from two rebel-besieged villages, Foua and Kfarya.

The ICRC said about 750 people have been bused out of the villages, leaving hundreds more to be evacuated.

Meanwhile, it was unclear if any U.N. observers were on the ground in eastern Aleppo on Wednesday—two days after a U.N. Security Council resolution approved their urgent deployment.

Kremlin calls US-Russian ties 'frozen;' unsure about Trump

MOSCOW (AP)—The Kremlin hopes that Donald Trump's administration will help improve the strained Russia-U.S. ties that it describes as "frozen," but it doesn't expect any immediate breakthroughs, President Vladimir Putin's spokesman said Wednesday.

Dmitry Peskov told Mir TV that the Kremlin expects the new U.S. administration to take a "fresher and more constructive approach," while cautioning against "excessive optimism." He warned that Washington would be unlikely to reverse such moves as the deployment of NATO's forces near Russian borders or quickly lift sanctions against Russia.

"We have never worn rose-colored glasses," Peskov said. "We clearly understand that any U.S. president will first of all protect interests of his country. "

Peskov rejected the claims by Trump's opponents that the U.S. president-elect is too Russia-friendly, saying that was a reflection what he called "Russophobia."

"We don't know yet what kind of president Trump will be and what position toward Russia he will take," Peskov said, adding that the two nations should talk about their existing problems.

"If our partners show the readiness to conduct a dialogue to search for solutions and to take mutual concerns into account ... it will mark a new approach," Peskov added.

He rejected President Barack Obama's accusations of Russian meddling in the U.S. presidential election, saying that Obama has repeatedly raised the issue with Putin but the Russian leader has strongly denied the claims.

"If such accusations are made, we have the right to demand an explanation, a proof and arguments. We haven't been offered any of it," he said.

Peskov said the U.S. election hacking allegations further dented the two nations' already troubled relations.

"Dialogue with the United States has been frozen on practically all levels," he said.

U.S. State Department spokesman John Kirby responded by saying that the dialogue with Russia has continued despite their differences, stressing that "diplomatic engagement with Russia continues across a wide range of issues."

Mexicans seek loved ones, answers in deadly fireworks blast

TULTEPEC, Mexico (AP)—Relatives of workers at a fireworks market flattened by a deadly chain-reaction explosion searched hospitals for loved ones Wednesday as attention focused on apparent lax security that allowed vendors to display their dangerous wares in the passageways between stalls.

Late Wednesday, the state of Mexico, where the San Pablito Market is located, updated its list of dead to 33, a figure also announced by state Interior Secretary Jose Manzur in a local radio interview. About 46 people remained hospitalized. Ten of the injured were minors, including one girl with burns over 90 percent of her body.

Juana Antolina Hernandez, who has run a stand for 22 years in San Pablito next to one operated by her parents, escaped the market in a mad dash when the explosions began Tuesday afternoon. The following day she was one of the disconsolate residents waiting outside a local morgue.

"I can't find my father, and my mother is very badly burned," said Hernandez, 49. "I am waiting here for them to tell me if my father is here, but up to this point, nothing."

San Pablito was especially well stocked for the holidays and bustling with hundreds of shoppers when the blast reduced the market to a stark expanse of ash, rubble and

the scorched metal, casting a pall over the Christmas season. Dramatic video of the explosion showed a towering plume of smoke that was lit up by a staccato of bangs and flashes of light, the third such incident to ravage the market on the northern outskirts of Mexico's capital since 2005.

Refugio Leon, who spent years working at the market and whose family ran seven stalls there, said vendors commonly stacked displays of bottle rockets and firecrackers outside their establishments in the passageways—even though the rules supposedly forbade putting merchandise in what was supposed to be a safety buffer to prevent chain-reaction explosions.

"Everybody did it," Leon said, speculating that it may have played a role in the rapid spread of the explosions.

Germany had monitored Berlin truck attack suspect for months

BERLIN (AP)—German officials had deemed the Tunisian man being sought in a manhunt across Europe a threat long before a truck plowed into a Christmas market in Berlin—and even kept him under covert surveillance for six months this year before halting the operation.

Now the international manhunt for Anis Amri—considered the prime suspect in Monday's deadly rampage—is raising questions about how closely German authorities are monitoring the hundreds of known Islamic extremists in the country.

The issue puts new pressure on Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is running for re-election next year. Critics are lambasting her for allowing hundreds of thousands of asylum-seekers to enter the country, allegedly without proper security checks.

Among them was Amri, a convicted criminal in both Tunisia and Italy with little chance of getting asylum who successfully evaded deportation from Germany even as German authorities rejected his asylum application and deemed the 24-year-old a possible jihadi threat.

He is suspected in the attack that left 12 people dead and 48 injured Monday evening in Berlin. Health officials said 12 of the injured had very serious wounds.

After German media published photos of him and a partial name, federal prosecutors issued a public appeal for information along with the promise of a 100,000-euro ($105,000) reward for his arrest.

Within hours it emerged that the man authorities warned could be "violent and armed" had in fact been known to them for months as someone with ties to Islamic extremists who used at least six different names and three different nationalities.

"People are rightly outraged and anxious that such a person can walk around here, keep changing his identity and the legal system can't cope with them," said Rainer Wendt, the head of a union representing German police.

Authorities had initially focused their investigation on a Pakistani man detained shortly after the attack, but released him a day later for lack of evidence. After finding documents belonging to Amri in the cab of the truck, they issued a notice to other European countries early Wednesday seeking his arrest.

According to Ralf Jaeger, the interior minister of North Rhine-Westphalia state, Amri arrived in Germany in July 2015 as the influx of asylum-seekers was nearing its peak.

Although registered in the west of the country, near the Dutch border, Amri had moved around Germany regularly since February, living mostly in Berlin, said Jaeger.

Science & Technology

AP

In this Monday, Dec. 12, 2016, photo, a person searches the internet for sales, in Miami. With the holidays fast approaching, more people are using their smartphones and other devices to get a handle on their last-minute shopping.

Tips for safe online shopping

NEW YORK (AP)—Tis the season to be jolly—but it's also the season for identity theft, phishing and credit card fraud.

With Christmas just days away, people are using their smartphones and other devices to get a handle on their last-minute shopping. Hackers are on the hunt as well, looking to steal personal information from easy targets.

"People just need to have their radar up, so that when they're trying to get their perfect gift to grandma's house in time for Christmas day, they're not clicking on things they shouldn't," says Michael Kaiser, executive director of the National Cyber Security Alliance.

We've written earlier on how to avoid holiday scams in general, both of the technology kind and otherwise: http://apne.ws/2hRZ55V . Here are some other tips for staying safe this holiday season.

YOU'D BETTER W ATCH OUT

Make sure your phone's operating system and all the apps you use to shop are up to date. That way you'll have the fixes for any recently discovered security problems.

You should also enable multi-factor authentication in the settings on your important accounts. This is a security measure that requires you to enter a temporary code in addition to your password when signing in; services often text this code to your phone. It complicates life for hackers should they somehow manage to get your password.

Improvements in credit card fraud detection have pushed hackers to focus on stealing legitimate login credentials, so adding an extra layer of protection to these accounts is a must, says John Dickson with the cybersecurity firm Denim Group.

And while some cybersecurity experts question the value of changing your password frequently, Dickson says it's not a bad idea this time of year.

"If you had a New Year's resolution to change your passwords, move that up by about four weeks, because this is fraudster season," Dickson says.

SANTA (AND HACKERS) ARE WATCHING

Nobody likes to dip into their mobile-data plan, but you might want to set aside a few gigabytes for your holiday shopping.

Signing on to free Wi-Fi at a store or coffee shop can be risky. Hackers could be lurking on the networks, ready to use that connection to steal credit-card numbers or other personal information. If you're using free Wi-Fi, at least wait till you get home to check your bank account balances, Kaiser says.

FEAST OF THE PHISHES

Phishing spikes during the holiday season. Emails that offer great deals on holiday gifts or donation pitches from charities could actually be attempts to steal your credit card or login information. Another popular trick: Fake emails supposedly sent by online retailers or shipping companies.

Don't click on links in these emails, as they may lead you to a fake website that looks legitimate. Instead, type in the company's website directly.

CHECKING IT TWICE (OR MORE)

Shoppers need to keep a close eye on their accounts. The easiest way to do this is to use the same credit card for all of your holiday shopping. Avoid debit cards—running up a credit card balance is one thing and can be challenged; draining your life's savings is another.

Use different passwords for your various shopping accounts. That way if one is compromised, it's less likely that the others will fall to hackers as well.

NAUGHTY OR NICE?

Websites that advertise hot deals on popular or hard-to-find gifts are probably scams. So are those touting free or deeply discounted gift cards. Stick with e-commerce sites you know are real. Don't click on web ads.

And if something advertised on a website or social media looks too good to be true, it probably is, says Brian Reed, chief marketing officer for ZeroFox, a cybersecurity firm that focuses on social media.

Instead of getting a great deal on a North Face jacket or a free iPhone, shoppers are getting their money and personal information stolen.

Also avoid apps that promise to generate gift card codes for various retailers, Reed says. The apps can harm your device. And, if you manage to use a code, you're committing fraud.

GIVING THE GIFT OF IOT

Internet-connected gadgets—whether they be a "smart" thermostat, baby monitor or a talking toy—will be under many trees this year.

But the lack of security built into many of these devices is becoming an issue. Experts worry that they could be used to breach a home or business network and let hackers access another device that holds private information.

There's no way to tell from its box how secure any given gadget is, but an online search could fill you in on previously reported problems.

Default passwords should be changed right away, if possible. Do some research to understand exactly what personal information the device is collecting and where it's being stored or sent.

Down the road, make sure your smart devices get their security updates. That includes your wireless router. If it's an older model, you're probably going to need to get them from the manufacturer's website. Newer models often send updates through apps.

And if your router is really old and not getting updates, you might want to add that to your gift list.

"If that's your gateway and it's not secure, then you're allowing people to get into all of the devices connected to it," Kaiser says.

TECH Q&A: Rescuing photos from a PC backup

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I updated my Windows 7 PC to Windows 10, but then had trouble with my hard drive. To avoid losing any data, including 20 years of photos, I made a "system image" of my hard drive on seven DVD disks. Then I reformatted the hard drive and reinstalled Windows 10. But now I can't retrieve the photos using Microsoft's Disk Management program. What can I do?

A: You are using the wrong Microsoft program to recover a "system image," a type of PC backup that makes an exact copy of everything on your hard drive, including Windows 10. The program to use is called "system image recovery."

The recovery will replace everything currently on your hard drive with what was there at the time you made the system image. For step-by-step directions, see tinyurl.com/zatkegs and scroll down to "launching system image recovery."

But first, make sure your hard drive is working (see "warning signs of hard drive failure" at tinyurl.com/het-25bp). If the drive's actions are questionable, replace it.

Once you begin the system image recovery, you'll face a couple of possibilities:

The system image restores properly: You'll get your photos back, but you'll also get back the previous installation of Windows 10. If that installation was flawed, you'll be getting those problems back, too.

The system image won't restore: This could happen if your hard drive wasn't working properly when you made the system image. But even if the system image can't be restored, you may be able to recover individual photos, this time by using the Windows Disk Management program. For step-by-step directions, see tinyurl.com/jhdujx5 (the directions are for Windows 7, but the process is the same for Windows 10.)

In the future, remember that the system image program is only for emergencies, not routine data backups. It will be much easier to retrieve your irreplaceable photos and data if you copy only those files to an external hard drive or flash drive.

Q: My Kodak Pulse Digital Frame (a Wi-Fi-equipped digital picture frame) worked well until it recently stopped accepting new photos via Wi-Fi, even though the device's memory isn't full. The picture frame also keeps disconnecting from my Wi-Fi network. What can I do?

A: Push the "Health Check" button on the back of the picture frame, which will display the frame's Wi-Fi connection on the screen. A blue arrow beside a Wi-Fi source means the connection is working, and a red arrow means it's not. Touch the "fix it" button on the screen to repair a connection. For more help, see page 29 of the user guide at tinyurl.com/zfqxc4s.

If that doesn't work, move the frame closer to your wireless router to improve Wi-Fi reception. Or change the router's Wi-Fi radio channel to avoid interference (see tinyurl.com/gqrvhg2.)

If the frame still doesn't receive new photos, make sure the pictures being sent to it are in the ".JPG" (also written JPEG) file format that the frame requires. To check the file format on a PC, right-click the photo and choose properties. On a Mac, use the "Get Info" command (see tinyurl.com/hx8nash).

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Mark Zuckerberg unveils Morgan Freeman-voiced AI assistant

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP)—Mark Zuckerberg has enlisted the help of Morgan Freeman and taken a shot at Nickelback while unveiling his new artificial intelligence assistant.

The Facebook founder and CEO showed off "Jarvis" with a post on the project and videos on his Facebook page.

The voice interactive assistant takes its name from a similar AI device in the "Iron Man" films. Freeman provides its voice.

Zuckerberg can be seen in the videos using Jarvis to control lights, the thermostat and even make toast. It also plays music, but when asked by Zuckerberg to play some good songs by the much derided Canadian band, Nickelback, Jarvis replies: "There are no good Nickelback songs."

The videos feature his wife Priscilla Chan and their toddler daughter, Max.

Zuckerberg calls the videos "a fun summary."

Off The Wall

Man wins OK to wear goat horns in driver's license photo

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)—An ordained Pagan priest finally has gotten the OK to sport goat horns in his Maine driver's license photo.

Maine resident Phelan Moonsong said that unless he's sleeping or bathing, he always wears his goat horns, which serve as his spiritual antennae and help him educate others about Paganism.

But Moonsong is questioning why he had to appeal his driver license's photo to the state after explaining his religious beliefs to Bureau of Motor Vehicle staff. Plus, he adds, the horns didn't obstruct his face.

The Maine Secretary of State's office said the state was not familiar with his choice of headdress and had asked Moonsong for more information to review the issue. A spokeswoman said the state allowed the goat horns because Moonsong cited their religious purposes and also because they didn't obstruct his face.

Maine motor vehicle staff can hold license photos for review if they have a concern about religious headdress.

Moonsong said after he applied for an updated driver's license in August and explained his religion to a motor vehicles employee, he was told to appeal his photo to the Secretary of State's office.

He said he provided more information to the Secretary of State's office. But when he contacted the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in late November, he said he was told his ID was rejected—which was news to him.

Moonsong then filled out an application for legal assistance from the American Civil Liberties Union, which recently told him it was unable to take his case.

"What I was requesting should have been accepted according to what was written in statute and in guidelines," he said.

It should be no different than a nun wearing a habit, or a Sikh wearing a Turban, Moonsong said.

But, he said, he was happy to receive his new driver's license last week.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

'Whatever' claims title as most annoying word in US poll

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. (AP)—A poll has found that the most annoying word or phrase used in casual conversation in America is "whatever." The Marist College poll released Wednesday indicates the word irritates 38 percent of Americans. The pollsters offered up five options for most annoying word or phrase: "Whatever," ''No offense, but," ''Ya know, right," ''I can't even" and "huge." "No offense, but" is second with 20 percent. In third place is, "You know, right," which is irksome to 14 percent of people, tied with "I can't even." ''Huge" grates on the nerves of 8 percent. "Whatever" is losing some steam, though. Last year it topped the list at 43 percent. Age matters. Among Americans under 30, "I can't even" takes top honors. The Dec. 1-9 survey of 1,005 adults has a sampling error margin of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points

Uber blames glitch for Philadelphia woman's $28,639 charge

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Ride-hailing giant Uber is blaming a computer glitch for overcharging a "handful" of customers, including one Philadelphia woman whose bank blocked an attempt to charge her more than $28,000 for a ride. Philly.com says that woman first said she got an email from Uber warning her that her financial information had been hacked. Six days later, Uber sent another email telling her that was wrong and that Uber's engineering team was aware of the error and fixing it. The San Francisco-based company says its engineers are working to ensure a similar glitch doesn't happen again. Uber says the woman's bank was never charged the $28,639.14, but a hold for that amount was placed on her account.

Suburban Chicago man sues over McDonald's 'value meal' price

CHICAGO (AP)—A suburban Chicago man is suing McDonald's restaurants in two Illinois counties, arguing cheeseburger "Extra Value Meals" are actually more expensive than when the items are purchased separately. James Gertie of Des Plaines tells The (Arlington Heights) Daily Herald that bundling two cheeseburgers, medium french fries and a drink at $5.90 is 41 cents more than when individual items are purchased. Gertie, a bus driver, says his lawsuit filed this month is about principle, not 41 cents. He seeks class-action status for a consumer fraud and deceptive practices lawsuit against McDonald's operator Karis Management Co. The complaint seeks an injunction to keep McDonald's from pricing value meals higher than items purchased separately. Des Plaines-based Karis operates McDonald's restaurants in nine cities.

NYC cops: Gold flakes thief believed hiding in Los Angeles

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City police say they believe the opportunistic thief who swiped an 86-pound bucket of gold flakes worth nearly $1.6 million off an armored truck in Manhattan is hiding out on the West Coast. Detectives say the man fled to Orlando, Florida after the Sept. 29 theft before ultimately landing in California. Police believe he's hiding out in the Los Angeles area with the stolen gold. The theft occurred in broad daylight and was caught on street surveillance cameras. Police say their suspect is 53-year-old Julio Nivelo, who goes by the name Luis Toledo, David Vargas and other aliases. They say he is a career thief from New Jersey who has been arrested and deported back to his native Ecuador several times.

Good rescue it was: Yoda the tortoise saved from school fire

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP)—Firefighters have rescued a Russian tortoise named Yoda at an eastern Idaho elementary school after a heating device caused his habitat to start smoldering. The Idaho Falls Fire Department says it responded early Wednesday to a fire alarm at Fairview Elementary School in Idaho Falls and found the building filled with smoke. Crews discovered a smoldering fire in a classroom in Yoda's 30-gallon enclosure and saved the tortoise. Bonneville School District Superintendent Charles Shackett says a heating pad meant to keep Yoda warm caused the problem. The hand-sized tortoise is fine and back home with his owner, a teacher. Shackett says he encourages pets in the classroom but will review animal habitat policies. School officials say the fire damage is minimal, and the building is being aired out.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE
In Loving Memory of

Luisa Cruz Atalig

(lovingly called Lucia, Chia, or Chiang)
February 20, 1948 – December 20, 2016
Was called to join her Creator at the age of 68

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Children/In-Laws:
†**Barbara Jean A. Santos**/Emilio Santos
(Emil Jr., Britney Jasmine)
Rudy Atalig (Luciann)
Ana A. Mortel/Reynaldo (Andrew,
Anjanette/Jedidiah, Annie Rey, Angelica)
Ray Anthony Atalig/Ermelita Atalig
Brother/In-Law: **Jesus Atalig**/†Carmen Atalig
Sisters/In-laws: †**Candilaria A. Agulto**/
†Joaquin S. Agulto, **Consolacion C. Atalig**/†Leonardo Wania,
Lourdes C. Atalig/Juan B. Matagolai, **Ursula A. Kapileo**/Fabian Nick Kapileo, **Jesusa A. Palacios**/†Norman S. Palacios.

She will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In her new life, she now joins her:
Mother: Maria Cruz Atalig
Father: Damiano Masga Atalig
Daughter: Barbara Jean A. Santos
Sister: Candilaria A. Agulto
Brothers: Perfirio C. Atalig, Gonzalo C. Atalig,
and Antonio C. Atalig
Nieces, nephews, and great grand nephews/nieces

Daily Mass of Intentions is being offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am.
Nightly Rosary prayer at Kristo Rai Church are as follows:
12/21-23/16 - 7:00pm; 12/24/16 – 4:00pm;
12/25/16 – 6:30pm; 12/26-27/16 – 7:00pm

On December 28, 2016, her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30am to Kristo Rai Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by Interment Service at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Please Join us in Prayers
The Children & Family

Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure.
You are loved, beyond words, missed beyond measure.

†Vicente Taitingfong Camacho

April 05, 1929 ~ January 02, 2016

As we celebrate the first year of his new life, we, the family of the late †Vicente T. Camacho, would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers.

The Holy Mass is offered daily at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning on Christmas Day (Sunday), December 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

From Monday, December 26, 2016 through Saturday, December 31, 2016, Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 a.m.
On New Year's Day (Sunday), January 01, 2017, Mass will be at 9:00 a.m.

On the final day, Monday, January 02, 2017, Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 a.m. Immediately after the Eucharistic celebration, breakfast will be served at the Joeten Dai-Dai Social Hall as a token of our appreciation for all the continued prayers, support and love given to us this past year.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers
are sincerely appreciated.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

RITA D. CAMACHO AND FAMILY

Life & Style

Celebrity trainers offer 9 steps for getting back to the gym

Looking to get back into working out after a lengthy or perhaps a lifelong hiatus but feeling intimidated at the thought of squatting alongside hand-standing people at a CrossFit?

Remember, even the little things can help motivate you, like a cool pair of shoes, energizing playlist or cute leggings. And if you hate piloxing (that's Pilates and kickboxing for the newbies), don't go just because it's the cool workout. Pick something you enjoy or you'll end up dreading it.

Try these tips from three celebrity fitness trainers to get you back into your groove in no time.

AP

This undated photo provided Mischief Media Group | MMG and SLT shows fitness trainer Bethany Meyers.

LACEY STONE

Lacey Stone is a tough-as-nails trainer with a heart of gold. The Los Angeles-based Flywheel instructor was recently chosen as one of the trainer's for Khloe Kardashian's new show "Revenge Body." The name holds personal meaning for the 35-year-old who relocated from New York a few years ago after a tough breakup to get a fresh start. And she's part of a movement that teaches trainers to empower women in class instead of just focusing on body-conscious messages.

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE SCALE: It's about finding a way to be more consistent with your workouts. If you just workout a couple times and expect a better body, you're going to fail. A great goal for beginners is to schedule at least three workouts per week for a month. Every week sign up for a class in advance so you don't allow life to get in the way. Schedule your life around your workouts, not your workouts around your life.

CHECK IN WITH A TRAINER MONTHLY: If you've forgotten how to work out, hire a trainer for a few intro sessions to make sure you have proper form, then meet together once a month to set new goals.

GET ON A BIKE: I think the best workout to start out with is spin. Everyone has ridden a bicycle before, there's no intimidating choreography, and the room is dark so you will feel safe. The repetitive motion and the loud music is designed to get you out of your head and into your body.

BETHANY MEYERS

Celebs like Karlie Kloss and Sofia Vergara love her Pilates, cardio, strength-training fusion classes at NYC's popular SLT studios. The 30-year-old former dancer boasts whimsical dance moves and motivating ab sessions. She's a master of the Megaformer, a Pilates reformer on steroids, and is working on a new project to inspire body confidence in women through movement.

ONLY GOT 20 MINUTES? THAT'S COOL: Don't be afraid to start small. Any amount of movement is better than no movement at all. Twenty or 30 minutes is enough time to still get enough burn to make it count. Don't look at your phone, don't let anyone interrupt you and keep moving the entire time.

PLAN SOMETHING FUN ON YOUR REST DAY: Take a day off. Balance is so important so make it part of your workout planning. Allow yourself specific days on which you don't workout. Fill that time with something rewarding like your favorite book by the fire or brunch with friends or playtime with your kids. By creating "on" and "off" days it will help you stick to your routine.

DREADING YOUR WORKOUT? TAKE THIS TEST: Will the feeling you have after you work out outweigh the dread you have before you do it? Usually the workout will boost my mood and make me feel stronger and better than before. It helps me remember that it's worth it.

SULTAN MALIK

He served a 14-year prison sentence for armed robbery, crediting his workouts with getting him through several years in solitary confinement. Now, the 36-year-old is an in-demand New York trainer at a boot-camp style gym that hires only ex-cons. Malik is all about mind over matter. He'd never exercised before his life behind bars, but says the daily workouts taught him his mind could travel even further than the gains he was seeing in his body. Soon fellow prisoners were asking to train with him.

PICK A STRENGTH TRAINING GOAL: Mix up your resistance by using weights, resistance bands, cables and kettle bells. Next, devise a plan based on your goals. Looking to increase muscular endurance? Choose a lower weight where you can do three sets of 15 to 20 repetitions. For muscular growth, choose a medium weight where you can do five sets of eight to 12 reps. And if you're looking to increase overall power, use a heavy weight that will allow one to six reps for one to three sets.

LEARN TO MASTER BODYWEIGHT MOVES: Just because you're not lifting weights, doesn't mean you're not building strength. For body weight exercises, try squat variations, lunges, pushups and pullups and triceps and other dips. You're looking to build muscle so start with a small number of reps that can be performed for four to five sets without compromising form.

FIND MOTIVATION IN GROUP CLASSES: Energy in group classes is contagious and while everyone has individual goals, the overall goal is to get though the workout not outperform anyone else. No one besides the trainer is paying attention to how well you are doing in class. ***(AP)***

17 stolen masterpieces returned to Italy with only scratches

VERONA, Italy (AP)—Seventeen masterpieces valued at 17 million euros ($17.7 million) were returned to Italy from Ukraine on Wednesday after being stolen by masked, armed robbers from a Verona art museum last year.

Italian Culture Minister Dario Franceschini, who traveled to Kiev to retrieve the paintings—which included works by Rubens, Tintoretto and Mantegna—said the possibility of ever recovering them once seem remote. Still, the paintings returned with little more than scratches after their long ordeal, according to an art expert.

"It's an important day, because the works are all returning to Verona intact," Franceschini said. "It was an ugly story that became a beautiful story."

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko handed over the paintings to Franceschini in a ceremony in Kiev, saying "the theft of masterpiece paintings is akin to stealing part of the city's heart."

The paintings, wrapped in plastic bags, were recovered in May by Ukrainian border guards who intercepted them on a small island on the Dniester River during an attempt to smuggle them into Moldova.

They were stolen in November 2015 when three armed robbers entered the Castelvecchio Museum, located in a medieval castle, at closing time just before the alarm system was activated. The robbers calmly removed the paintings before escaping in a security guard's car.

A guard at the museum, Pasquale Silvestri Riccardi, was convicted of armed robbery and sentenced to 10 years and eight months in prison earlier this month. Five others were also convicted, including Riccardi's Moldovan girlfriend, who received six years, and his twin brother, who was sentenced to eight months.

Two Moldovans are on trial in their home country for the thefts.

Franceschini credited strong cooperation between law enforcement in the three countries for recovering the paintings and finding the thieves, giving particular praise to Italy's Carabinieri art squad. The culture minister also announced the government would introduce legislation this week making the theft or damage of Italy's cultural heritage specific crimes with elevated penalties.

Police: Student of ex-TV contestant arrested, points to body

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A body believed to be that of a former reality show contestant was found buried in a backyard near Los Angeles after a man in one of her nursing classes pointed police to the shallow grave as they questioned him in the woman's disappearance, authorities said.

Lisa Marie Naegle, 36, a nurse, was a losing contestant in 2010 on the E! network show "Bridalplasty," where she competed for a dream wedding and plastic surgery.

Police said they arrested Jackie Jerome Rogers on suspicion of murder Tuesday after questioning him and that he indicated her body was at his house in the community of Lennox, near Los Angeles International Airport.

"We can confirm a body which we believe is Lisa Marie was discovered in a shallow grave at the suspect's home," police spokesman Sal Ramirez said Tuesday night. "The detectives strongly believe it is her."

Naegle taught nursing at West Los Angeles College, and Rogers was one of her students, the Daily Breeze newspaper reported. Police did not give details on their relationship or a motive for the killing.

AP

This undated photo of Lisa Marie Naegle was provided by her family to police and news media as they and authorities seek the public's help in locating her.

It was not immediately clear whether Rogers had a lawyer who could speak on his behalf.

Naegle had gone to a birthday party Saturday night at a beer hall and restaurant in Torrance. Her husband, Derek Harryman, said he got home from work and texted her around 2 a.m. Sunday to see where she was.

"Within a minute or two, she called me," Harryman told the newspaper. "She sounded really, really drunk. She said, 'I'm going to get some food and then I'll be home.'"

She never arrived.

Harryman and Naegle's sister filed a missing person's report and launched a social media campaign to help find her.

The family said a friend who works at the beer hall let them see surveillance video that they say shows Naegle leaving with Rogers and getting into his vehicle.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Founder of pro-Clinton Pantsuit Nation defends book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—The founder of a pro-Hillary Clinton Facebook site is defending her decision to write a book after attracting widespread criticism from fellow group members. Libby Chamberlain has a deal with Flatiron Books for a compilation based on postings on Pantsuit Nation, a private site on which members share personal stories about sexism and other kinds of intolerance. But contributors to Pantsuit Nation have accused her in recent days of using their work to promote herself. On Wednesday, Chamberlain wrote on Facebook that she would be donating proceeds to Pantsuit Nation and related causes and that no material would be used without the permission of the creator. Chamberlain, a Brooklin, Maine resident, started Pantsuit Nation a month before the presidential election. The page soon attracted more than 2 million followers.

'Doonesbury' creator designs poster for New York event

SARANAC LAKE, N.Y. (AP)—"Doonesbury" cartoonist Garry Trudeau has once again designed the poster for the annual winter carnival in his childhood hometown in New York. The Pulitzer Prize-winning creator of such characters as Mike Doonesbury, Zonker and Uncle Duke has designed the poster for the 2017 Saranac Lake Winter Carnival, which runs from Feb. 3 through Feb. 12. This year's theme for the popular event is "Adirondack Wildlife." Trudeau's illustration depicts Zonker in a canoe with the silhouette of a bear looming over him against a backdrop of a mountain scene with birds in flight and a moose. Trudeau, who was raised in the village of Saranac Lake, has designed the posters since 2012 to benefit the organization that runs the carnival. He also has created the event's button design since 1981.

Colorado hotels compete to be in Hunter S. Thompson movie

DURANGO, Colo. (AP)—Hotels in southwest Colorado are competing to be featured in a new movie about gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson that will be filmed next summer. The Durango Herald reports that five hotels in Durango, Silverton and Telluride are being considered for the movie "Freak Power." Stephani Burditt of Colorado's southwestern economic development district says the movie's production team wants to mimic the Hotel Jerome in Aspen as it looked in the 1970s. It underwent so many renovations that it was deemed unsuitable for the movie. "Freak Power" will follow the story of Thompson's 1970 unsuccessful campaign to become sheriff of Colorado's Pitkin County. Bobby Kennedy III is set to direct. Thompson died in 2005 in Woody Creek, Colorado.

Christopher Meloni reunites with 'SVU' pal Mariska Hargitay

Former "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" co-stars Mariska Hargitay and Christopher Meloni are celebrating the season with a holiday selfie. Meloni posted a picture of himself with his arm around Hargitay on his Instagram on Tuesday, along with the caption, "Friends at Xmas." Hargitay posted the same picture on her account. Meloni and Hargitay starred in "SVU" for 12 seasons before Meloni left in a contract dispute. They have reunited on several occasions since, including at a 2013 event for Hargitay's Joyful Heart Foundation charity. ***(AP)***

Lena Dunham apologizes for saying 'I wish I had' an abortion

Lena Dunham has apologized for saying she wished she had an abortion.

Dunham made the comment on last week's episode of her "Women Of The Hour" podcast while talking about a self-realization. She said that even though she speaks against stigmatizing abortion, she found herself saying adamantly that she had never had one when she was asked to be part of a project involving women discussing their abortions. In reference to this contradiction, she said: "Now I can say that I still haven't had an abortion, but I wish I had." The comment drew criticism online. On Tuesday, the "Girls" star apologized on Instagram for what she called "a distasteful joke." She said she "would never, ever intentionally trivialize the emotional and physical challenges of terminating a pregnancy."

Records show Alan Thicke died from rupture of major artery

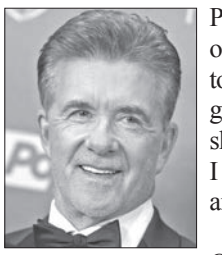
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Alan Thicke died after his aorta artery tore then ruptured last week, according to his death certificate released Wednesday.

The details emerged after the "Growing Pains" star died Dec. 13 at 69. He was buried Monday in Santa Barbara, California.

The Canadian actor had enjoyed a lengthy career on both sides of the border. He also worked as a songwriter and talk show host.

His cause of death was determined by a doctor and no autopsy was performed.

Thicke's aorta ruptured about three hours after it first developed a tear, the death certificate states.



Thicke

An aortic tear also killed John Ritter in 2003. The aorta is the main artery that carries blood from the heart to other parts of the body.

Tanya Thicke recalled her "beloved husband, soul mate and the patriarch of our family" in a statement Tuesday.

"It is with gut wrenching sadness and unbelievable grief that I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for the outpouring of love and support during this unimaginable time," she wrote.

In addition to playing Dr. Jason Seaver on "Growing Pains," which aired on ABC from 1985 to 1992, Thicke had guest appearances on shows such as "How I Met Your Mother" and "This Is Us."

Born in Ontario, Canada, he was nominated for three Emmy Awards for his work in the late 1970s as a writer for Barry Manilow's talk show, and later for a satirical take on the genre in the variety show "America 2-Night."

He composed several popular theme songs, including the original theme for "Wheel of Fortune" and other shows including "The Facts of Life" and "Diff'rent Strokes."

BEST NUTCRACKER AP

In this undated photo provided by PSG/PR, performers act out a scene from Colorado Ballet's version of "The Nutcracker, " at Ellie Caulkins Opera House, in Denver. The version has won the Goldstar National Nutcracker Award, beating over 80 other "Nutcracker"-themed productions to be named an audience favorite.

Young son confused by sex is ready to have the 'talk'

DEAR ABBY: I divorced last year after 14 years of marriage. We have a 10-year-old son together. While staying with his father on weekends, he has overheard his father and new girlfriend having sex. It has happened a couple of times, and each time my son comes home in tears. His father has promised to not let it happen again.

My son is now worried that I'm doing the same thing, and he is treating me like I am the child and he's the parent. He seems to think that people have sex only to have babies, and he is worried.

Do I need to get him some kind of counseling, or will this get better as he gets older and matures? I'm angry that his father didn't use his head before choosing his actions, and now I'm the one being punished for it.

TOO MUCH FOR MY SON

DEAR TOO MUCH: If your son hasn't had "the talk" with you or his father, it should start immediately so he knows that having sex doesn't always mean the result will be babies. And while you're at it, tell your son that you are not planning to have any more children anytime soon, so he has no reason to worry about you.

DEAR ABBY: I volunteer at a local hospital. We were told in training not to come to work if we were sick. One volunteer I work with didn't heed what he was told and showed up last week sneezing and coughing. When I asked if he wanted to go home, he declined. Although I cleaned his workstation with an antiseptic, a few days later I came down with the worst cold I have had in years.

I take care not to do anything to jeopardize my good health, but I had no control over this situation. I think it is extremely thoughtless of sick people to expose co-workers to their germs. Please, people, stay home when you are sick!

STILL RECOVERING IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR STILL RECOVERING: I hear you loud and clear, and I agree. Your co-worker should be ashamed of himself. If he infected you, I can only wonder how many of the patients were put at risk or infected. As soon as you saw your co-worker had come to work sick, you should have informed your supervisor. If you had, it might have saved you some misery.

DEAR ABBY: My so-called boyfriend asked me to marry him. The problem is, he's already married to a woman he married for financial reasons. He doesn't believe in divorce, so where does that leave me? Yes, I love him, but I feel hurt and my heart is heavy. He doesn't know that I know all of this, and if he did, he would probably be upset. What should I do?

HURTING HEART

DEAR HURTING HEART: I know your heart is heavy. Any woman's heart would be if she found herself in your situation. If your boyfriend's wife knew what he was proposing, I'll bet SHE would believe in divorce.

Tell him to get lost, and run in the opposite direction! Whether it "upsets" him is irrelevant. The last thing you need is a cheater. He will never marry you because he's already married—to his meal ticket.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THIS ARTICLE SAYS THAT MANY PEOPLE FIND CHRISTMAS THE MOST STRESSFUL TIME OF YEAR.
I BELIEVE IT. THIS SEASON SURE FILLS ME WITH STRESS.
REALLY? HOW COME?
I HATE BEING GOOD.
12-23
WATERSON

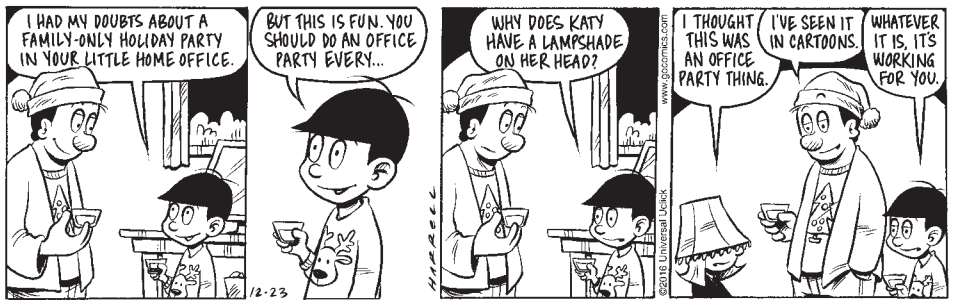
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU KNOW, GARFIELD, I'M STARTING TO FEEL KINDA BAD ABOUT KICKING THE MICE OUT OF THE HOUSE WITH CHRISTMAS COMING UP...
DO YOU GUYS NEED BLANKETS OR ANYTHING?
YEAH! AND SOME SHEETS!
NICE SHEETS!
800-THREAD-COUNT EGYPTIAN, BABY!
JIM DAVIS 12-23

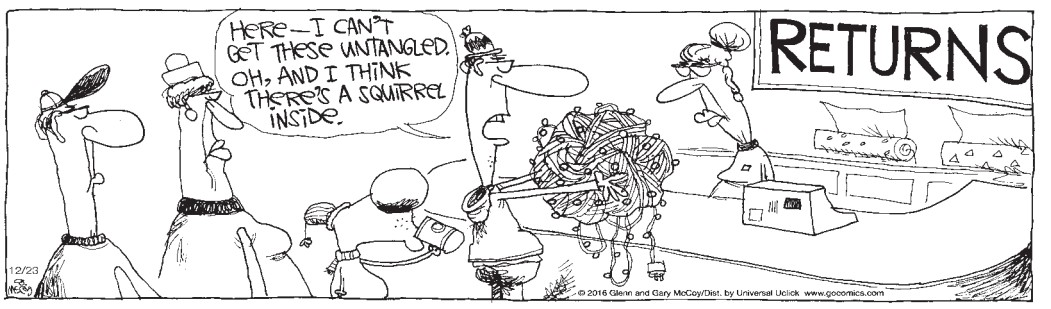
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I HAD MY DOUBTS ABOUT A FAMILY-ONLY HOLIDAY PARTY IN YOUR LITTLE HOME OFFICE.
BUT THIS IS FUN. YOU SHOULD DO AN OFFICE PARTY EVERY...
WHY DOES KATY HAVE A LAMPSHADE ON HER HEAD?
I THOUGHT THIS WAS AN OFFICE PARTY THING.
I'VE SEEN IT IN CARTOONS.
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S WORKING FOR YOU.
12-23

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

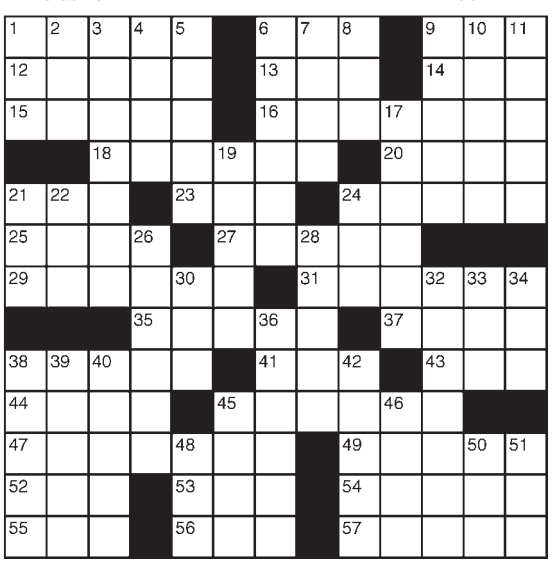
ACROSS
1 Lost color
6 Fix, in a way
9 PC key
12 Texas cook-off dish
13 401(k) alternative
14 Utter
15 Honda model
16 Bankrupt
18 Swerved
20 Downwind
21 Whatever amount
23 Calendar box
24 Despots
25 Ergo
27 Painter of ballerinas
29 Sun Bowl city
31 Orbit high point
35 LP material
37 Fat
38 Foundation
41 TV Tarzan Ron
43 Reggae relative
44 Outside (Pref.)
45 Sailing vessels
47 "Get a move on!"
49 Israel's Moshe
52 One-time link
53 Hearty brew
54 Dodge
55 Singer Lana Del —
56 Wet dirt
57 Ran easily

DOWN
1 TV watchdog org.
2 Sashimi fish
3 Split evenly
4 Writer Wiesel
5 Cut into cubes
6 Steak cut
7 Angered
8 Lass
9 Sanctuaries
10 "Today" host Matt
11 Sorts
17 Rodeo ropes
19 Harmful gas
21 Packed away
22 Stanley Cup org.
24 Spigot
26 Rescuer
28 Big name in California wine
30 Bro's kin
32 Prettify
33 "A mouse!"
34 JFK info
36 Barked like a puppy
38 Joy of "The View"
39 Less than 90 degrees
40 Wander off
42 Alpine air?
45 "Star Trek" officer
46 — Alto, Calif.
48 Candied veggie
50 Citrus drink
51 Homer's neighbor

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	H	A	W		H	U	H		S	H	O	P
H	I	L	O		O	N	E		P	O	R	E
O	R	E	O		M	I	R		I	M	A	N
T	E	C	H	I	E		B	A	G	E	L	S
			O	N	S			L	O	S		
S	O	H	O		P	O	S	I	T	I	V	E
E	W	E			U	L	T			C	E	L
A	N	A	C	O	N	D	A		U	K	E	S
		D	E	B			Y	D	S			
D	A	H	L	I	A		H	O	M	E	R	S
E	C	O	L		U	F	O		A	R	I	A
M	E	M	O		R	A	M		I	N	N	S
O	D	E	S		A	X	E		L	E	G	S

Yesterday's answer 12-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Greg Biffle, 47; Eddie Vedder, 52; Susan Lucci, 70; Harry Shearer, 73.

Happy Birthday: Look for the good in everyone. Taking the high road and striving for perfection in all that you do will help you combat any negativity you face. Live by the rules and conduct your personal and professional business with diplomacy and dignity. Standing up for your beliefs but not forcing them on others will improve your life journey. Your numbers are 7, 18, 21, 24, 33, 35, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): An unusual gift or offering will take you by surprise. Take advantage of an opportunity that arises. Celebrate with someone you love. A new beginning will entice you. Don't stretch your budget based on income you have yet to receive. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Do what you can for those who cannot. Your gesture will be appreciated and the satisfaction will be unprecedented. Someone you used to work with or who inspires you will grant you a unique and intriguing opportunity. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take an interest in what others are doing. Take note of how people react. Responding with positive suggestions and affirmation will help you overcome negativity. Avoid overspending, indulging and selling yourself short. Take time out for you. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A day trip or getting together with friends or relatives will lead to some interesting talks and encounters that will change the way you think. Share your thoughts and try new things. Taking a unique path will lead to an adventure. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Do something different this year. Use your imagination and you'll come up with an idea that is within your budget and is sure to please everyone on the receiving end of your generosity. Don't let an emotional incident ruin your day. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A short trip, shopping spree or attending a festive celebration with peers will turn out well. You can dazzle others with your wit and intelligence as well as successfully present an idea you want to develop next year. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Taking care of children, making a promise to someone you love or shopping for little items to please the ones you care about most will make a difference. Getting together with peers, friends or your loved one is favored. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Last-minute changes will throw you off guard. Don't feel the need to be a follower. If you aren't ready to make a move, sit tight and be a bystander. Concentrate on personal and home improvements. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Check out what everyone else is doing and do your best to pitch in and help. If you give something from the heart, it won't matter how large or small it is. Trust in your beliefs. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Avoid getting into controversial discussions with friends or relatives. It's best to keep the peace and avoid ostracizing yourself from the people you do want to spend time with during the holidays. Offer kindness over criticism. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Charm will help you get your way. Making smart financial moves and doing whatever you can to secure your position will lead to victory. Approach the end of the year on a high note, not by waffling over what to do next. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your charm will help you bypass criticism. Offering hands-on help will bring you closer to the people you may have let down this year. Your strength and popularity will come from doing the right thing, not the most expensive. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have drive and determination. You are insightful, confident and outspoken.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4			5		
	4		1	9		8	6	
3	5							
							3	1
	6			1			4	
8	9							
							7	5
	1	8		2	3		9	
		5			7			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	1	6	7	9	5	2	3
6	7	5	3	8	2	1	9	4
3	9	2	4	1	5	8	6	7
5	2	7	9	6	1	3	4	8
9	8	3	7	2	4	6	5	1
1	6	4	8	5	3	9	7	2
4	3	8	5	9	7	2	1	6
2	5	6	1	4	8	7	3	9
7	1	9	2	3	6	4	8	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/22

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LET'S HANG OUT — Solution: 9 letters

T	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	T	O	P	S	A	M	P
H	A	C	O	M	R	A	D	E	U	E	B	R	A	R
I	M	L	O	C	A	T	I	O	N	A	K	C	L	E
N	I	O	K	A	N	E	R	A	R	S	N	A	L	P
K	L	S	R	I	B	G	H	C	A	E	B	D	L	A
Ⓣ	Y	E	A	U	N	S	H	Y	I	R	N	E	Y	R
C	Ⓐ	M	P	U	S	G	R	G	E	F	K	N	T	E
N	R	Ⓗ	O	C	U	A	H	S	E	A	N	R	I	Y
W	E	C	Ⓒ	A	R	B	T	M	O	V	I	E	V	D
O	H	N	L	B	O	A	I	C	I	O	R	N	I	D
T	T	U	I	R	U	T	O	H	E	R	D	T	T	U
N	E	L	H	R	H	F	A	U	F	I	L	R	C	B
W	G	O	A	G	F	U	N	M	A	T	I	A	A	U
O	O	N	I	E	Z	P	L	A	C	E	S	P	E	L
D	T	N	E	U	Q	E	R	F	U	T	U	R	E	C

© 2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 12/23

Activity, Arcade, Arena, Bar, Beach, Buddy, Cafe, Campus, Chat, Chum, Close, Club, Coffee, Comrade, Dinner, Downtown, Drink, Family, Favorite, Frequent, Friends, Fun, Future, Group, Lake, Laugh, Library, Location, Lunch, Mall, Movie, Neighborhood, Night, Park, Partner, Places, Plans, Prepare, Pub, Restaurant, Spot, Talking, Think, Time, Together

Yesterday's Answer: Water

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

Skilled Carpenters and Masons with CW-1 issued or approved from October 2016 up to present. 5 years experience required. $7/hour

Please call 989-2600 or 483-8729

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!

For opportunities contact us at

235-6397

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857
Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: **December 16, 2016** Closing Date: **December 30, 2016**

The Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission") announces a Job Vacancy for immediate recruitment for the following position:

	POSITION	DIVISION	SALARY RANGE	ANNOUNCEMENT NO.
1.	**ENFORCEMENT AGENT II**	Enforcement & Investigations	$27,000 - $32,000	CCC-2017-A
2.	**PERMIT & LICENSING CLERK**	Permit & Licensing	$15,000 - $19,800	CCC-2017-B
3.	**TECHNICAL COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST**	Compliance Division	$37,000 - $42,000	CCC-2017-C
4.	**COMPLIANCE AGENT**	Compliance Division	$32,000 - $37,000	CCC-2017-D
5.	**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER –** Procurement Officer	Executive Office	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2017-E

- **Salary:** Actual salary level will depend on the applicant's education, experience, and other related qualifications.
- **Location:** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").
- **Benefits:** Basic CNMI government employment fringe benefits.
- **Exempted Positions:** This position is exempted from the CNMI Civil Service system per P.L. 18-56 & P.L. 19-24.

Requirements:

A. CNMI Government A**pplication for Employment** (OPM-03) - Original
B. Resume with accompanying educational and professional credentials & documentations
C. Police Clearance (within the last 3 months)
D. Copy of your Driver's License or other form of **Valid Identification with photo**

Education and training claimed under items 24 (A) through (H) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is an equal employment opportunity employer. The CCC's EEO policy is to ensure that all employment decisions are made on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or belief, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law. Please be informed that prior to a job offer, you are required to undergo a pre-employment drug test pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy, Part V.C. of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. The Casino Commission may also require additional criminal background checks and investigations if deemed necessary.

Application Forms can be picked up at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). For information on the **POSITION DESCRIPTION** and other requirements, please contact the HR Officer, Ms. Juanette LG. Sablan at 233-1857/58 or at **info@cnmicasinocommission.com.** Interested persons should submit their Employment Application Forms along with supporting documents to the **Commonwealth Casino Commission's Office at Springs Plaza (Unit #13 & #14), Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.**

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

WHATZIT Solution: 5 o'clock shadow

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$15**	**$30**
• 5-Liner	**$24**	**$45**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

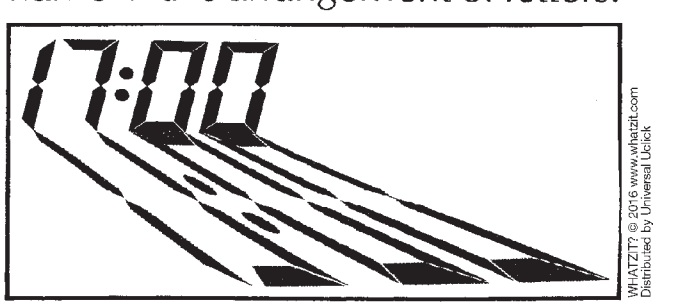
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Irving, James lead short-handed Cavs past Bucks, 113-102

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kyrie Irving didn't get tired of seeing the Milwaukee Bucks on consecutive days in December.

In fact, he wouldn't mind playing them a few more times in late April, May or June when it really matters.

"I hope," he said.

Irving had 31 points and a career-high 13 assists, and LeBron James scored 29 as the Cleveland Cavaliers won their second game in 24 hours over the young Bucks, 113-102 on Wednesday despite being without two starters.

The NBA champions were not at full strength as Kevin Love didn't dress for the second straight game with a bruised left knee, and J.R. Smith sat out after breaking his right thumb Tuesday at Milwaukee. Smith needs surgery, and the Cavs won't have a timetable on his return until after the operation.

They were barely missed as Cleveland's two biggest stars more than made up for the absences and the Cavs won for the eighth time in nine games. The only loss in that stretch was last week at Memphis when James, Irving and Love stayed home to rest.

After his big performance Wednesday night, Irving was asked if he sees the Bucks as a contender, a team Cleveland could meet in the playoffs. Milwaukee beat the Cavs 118-101 on Nov. 29.

"I hope, man. It would be great, four games against them," Irving said. "I'm fired up to go against them every time now, for real. Ever since they kicked our (butts) in Milwaukee it's been personal and it's going to continue to be personal."

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyrie Irving shoots between Milwaukee Bucks' Greg Monroe and Malcolm Brogdon during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2016, in Milwaukee.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 28 points and Jabari Parker 27 for the Bucks, who took the Cavs to overtime at home Tuesday but fell behind by 21 in the fourth quarter this time and couldn't come back.

"They're the champs," Milwaukee coach Jason Kidd said. "They showed that again tonight. They never panic. They've seen everything. For a young team like ourselves, we're going through that. Hopefully, we can learn from our mistakes."

Tristan Thompson added 15 rebounds for Cleveland.

Cavs coach Tyronn Lue wanted to rest Irving and James, who played a respective 47 and 45 minutes in Tuesday's overtime win at Milwaukee.

"He came to me and asked me how I felt. I said great," James said. "He gave me a little look and I said, 'I feel great,' and uh, that was it."

Like Irving, James sees the Bucks as a team to watch in the future, and a possible challenger to the Cavs in the East. Maybe not this season, but at some point.

"The next several years they could be really, really good," James said. "For me, I'm ready for whatever matchup. It doesn't matter if it's this year, or if it's several years, I'm going to be ready for it."

Irving scored 14 in the third quarter, capping the period with a three-point play to put Cleveland ahead by 15.

James made three 3-pointers in a span of 1:11 in the second to give Cleveland a 51-35 lead, but Lue, perhaps concerned about overworking his superstar, replaced him with Richard Jefferson.

James had an incredulous look as he ran off the floor and seemed to wonder why Lue would pull him while on such a shooting tear.

"He was mad," Lue said.

"I wished he would've changed his mind," James said. "I had made three straight 3s. I don't know. It's cool, though. We won."

Timberwolves 92, Hawks 84

In Atlanta, Andrew Wiggins scored 19 points and Karl-Anthony Towns had 17 points and 18 rebounds in Minnesota's victory over Atlanta.

Zach LaVine added 18 points for the Timberwolves, who earned consecutive wins for the first time since April 5-9 last season.

Dennis Schroder finished 21 points and Paul Millsap had 18 points and 10 rebounds for Atlanta, which has dropped six of seven at home. The Hawks have lost during that span to four teams with losing records: New Orleans, Detroit, Orlando and Minnesota.

Thunder 121, Pelicans 110

In New Orleans, Russell Westbrook had 42 points and 10 rebounds to lead Oklahoma City over New Orleans.

Alex Abrines scored nine of his 18 points during a pivotal 11-0 run early in the fourth quarter. The surge gave the Thunder a 100-87 lead with 9:18 left, and the Pelicans never got within eight after that.

Enes Kanter finished with 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Anthony Davis had 34 points and 15 rebounds for New Orleans. Jrue Holiday added 23 points and 10 assists, and Terrence Jones scored 21 for the Pelicans, who have lost nine of 12.

Wizards 107, Bulls 97

In Chicago, John Wall had 23 points and nine assists, and Washington rallied past Chicago for its third road victory of the season.

Trey Burke and Marcus Thornton came off the Washington bench to spark a decisive fourth-quarter burst. Chicago closed to 97-93 with less than 3 minutes left, but Bradley Beal, Marcin Gortat and Wall followed with baskets to seal it.

Beal finished with 21 points, while Gortat had 14 points and 11 rebounds. Burke scored 10.

Jimmy Butler led a balanced Bulls offense with 20 points, and Dwyane Wade added 19. Rajon Rondo had 10 assists.

Rockets 125, Suns 111

In Phoenix, James Harden had 27 points and 14 assists, propelling Houston past Phoenix for its 11th victory in 12 games.

Eric Gordon added 24 points off the Rockets' bench, shooting 7 of 13 on 3-pointers. Patrick Beverley finished with 18 points, nine assists and nine rebounds.

Houston made 18 of 38 attempts from 3-point range.

Devin Booker's 28 points led the Suns, who have lost four in a row.

Kings 94, Jazz 93

In Salt Lake City, Utah, DeMarcus Cousins scored 21 points and Sacramento rallied from a 20-point deficit to defeat Utah.

The Kings used an 11-3 run, led by Ty Lawson and five free throws by Cousins, to take a 91-89 lead with 25.9 seconds remaining. It was their first lead since the opening quarter.

The Jazz led by 20 in the third, but their defense disappeared in crunch time.

Gordon Hayward led Utah with 28 points and 10 rebounds, while Rudy Gobert had his ninth consecutive double-double with 17 points and 14 boards. He and Timberwolves big man Karl-Anthony Towns are tied for the longest active streaks in the NBA.

Mavericks 96, Trail Blazers 95

In Portland, Oregon, Harrison Barnes had 28 points and Dallas held off a furious rally by Portland that ended when Damian Lillard missed a 3-pointer at the final buzzer.

Deron Williams added 23 points for the Mavericks, who led by 25 early in the third quarter.

Lillard finished with 29 points, including 20 in the third period. It was Portland's fourth straight loss.

Lillard's 3-point attempt at the buzzer came under intense pressure from former Trail Blazers guard Wesley Matthews.

Sources: Owners pass new labor deal, players next

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI and TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITERS

A new labor deal in the NBA is on the verge of being finalized, after owners voted Wednesday to approve a proposed seven-year collective bargaining agreement that was tentatively agreed to last week.

The owners' vote was unanimous and players are expected to finish casting their ballots in the coming days, two people with direct knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because neither the NBA nor the National Basketball Players Association has revealed specifics about the voting process publicly.

Teams met by teleconference on Wednesday to discuss and approve the proposed deal. Players were recently emailed information about the CBA from the union and were intending to have their ratification vote completed electronically by Friday, one of the people involved told AP.

In both cases, the voting processes are no more than formality. When the sides agreed last week, there was no question the required votes to ratify would come from both sides. And if the player vote gets done as planned, the league's showcase day—Christmas, with five games Sunday—could be even a bigger celebration than usual.

"This deal was a partnership, for both sides and is about the game overall, what it was, what it is now and its future," Chicago guard Dwyane Wade told AP on Wednesday.

The league and the union spent months working on a new deal, one that ensures labor peace for at least the next six seasons and ends any fear of a work stoppage next summer. Either side will have the ability to opt-out after the 2022-23 season, though the deal will technically extend through 2023-24.

The votes won't actually conclude the work on the new CBA, which takes effect after this season. What the sides agreed to was a term sheet, essentially the framework from which the massive document - which will likely exceed 400 pages when completed - will be drawn. Some of the language involved will be existing from the current deal, some of it changed slightly and some of it either very different or new altogether.

Salaries and revenues are expected to continue soaring, thanks in part to a new television deal that is pumping $24 billion into the league's coffers. The average player salary is expected to hit $8.5 million next season and rise to $10 million by 2020-21 under the new terms.

Maximum salaries could exceed $40 million per season soon, with Golden State's Stephen Curry—the NBA's two-time reigning MVP—potentially in line for an extension this summer that would pay him more than $205 million over the next five seasons if he stays with the Warriors.

Other details of the new proposed CBA include significant increases in values of rookie-scale contracts and minimum salaries. Preseason schedules will be capped at six games instead of eight, regular seasons will start a week earlier than usual to allow for more days off and fewer back-to-backs, and teams will be allowed to use "two-way" contracts for NBA Development League players for the first time.

Woeful Jaguars trying to avoid 1st winless season at home

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Jacksonville's worst season in team history could become even more dreadful Saturday.

The Jaguars (2-12) have a chance to reach another low by failing to win a single home game for the first time in the franchise's 22 years. They need to upset AFC South rival Tennessee (8-6) to avoid the miserable mark.

"The fact that we don't have one at this point in the season, you just shake your head because it shouldn't be that way," veteran linebacker Paul Posluszny said.

Jacksonville is 0-6 at EverBank Field in 2016 and has gone more than a year since winning at home. The Jags have dropped seven in a row since beating Indianapolis 51-16 on Dec. 13, 2015. Although they technically have a home victory against the Colts in London in October, players and coaches realize that doesn't really count.

So Jacksonville's home finale has something at stake for a team that has lost nine consecutive games and is coping with the firing of popular coach Gus Bradley.

"It would be embarrassing" to go winless at home, defensive tackle Sen'Derrick Marks said. "You play for yourself as a team first off and then you play for the organization. But you play for the fans also. They spend their money to come out and watch us play. You're supposed to come out and perform and give them a show and actually give the city something to be proud about."

The Jaguars have had late chances to win five of their six home games this season, but have come up short in each. The biggest issue has been a lack of offense. Quarterback Blake Bortles and crew have averaged a little more than 17 points at EverBank.

"It's supposed to be a home-field advantage," Marks said. "You're supposed to have an advantage. You're supposed to know your field. Your crowd is supposed to be in and have the other team off-balance. We haven't done it. We can say we've let down on that part. That's on us. We can't blame anybody else. We've got a chance this week to go out and change it, at least going into the offseason."

The Jaguars have experienced few, if any, home-field advantages this season. With losses mounting—the team was 14-48 in four seasons under Bradley, including 7-20 in Jacksonville—many season-ticket holders stopped showing up to games and seemingly sold their seats.

Green Bay, Baltimore, Oakland, Denver and Minnesota had huge contingents of fans on hand in Jacksonville. Two weeks ago, the Vikings-Jaguars game looked close to a 50-50 split.

"Yeah, very noticeable," Marks said. "Players notice it. We can't do nothing but blame ourselves. We're not winning. We can't expect nobody to show up and we lose. You think they're going to continue to show up? No. They're not going to continue to show up.

"We've got to take that on ourselves and go out and change that mindset that they may have. You can't ask people to buy tickets. As the team who has not been winning, you've got to make them buy. And you make them buy by going out and winning games and giving them something to cheer for."

Linebacker Telvin Smith, receiver Allen Robinson and defensive tackle Malik Jackson made headlines earlier this season by criticizing fans. Robinson said, "It's funny that we get our best home-field advantage when we go to Wembley" Stadium in London. And Jackson said, "It sounded like there were more people in the pools than cheering for the game."

Players have been considerably quieter of late, mostly because they realize they haven't done their part.

"I've never seen a losing team fill seats," Jackson said. "We hope we can put on good performances and give our team a chance to win and give the crowd something to cheer about. We understand this league's all about L's and W's, and the fans want to win and they're tired of losing, so we're going to try to win. But if you don't come support us, then that's your decision and I don't care."

NFL fines Giants $150,000, Ben McAdoo $50,000 for walkie-talkie

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—The NFL has fined the New York Giants, coach Ben McAdoo and moved the team's fourth-round pick in next year's draft to the end of the round because the rookie coach used a walkie-talkie for about five plays during the fourth quarter of a game against Dallas a little more than a week ago.

The league notified the Giants on Tuesday that the franchise was fined $150,000 and McAdoo was fined $50,000.

The Giants' fourth-round selection in the 2017 draft will be moved to the end of the fourth round, after any compensatory picks in that round, but no more than 12 selection spots from where they finished in draft order for that round.

McAdoo used the walkie-talkie early in the fourth quarter after his communications system malfunctioned.

The NFL's game operations policy prohibits the use of two-way radios by coaches to communicate plays during a game.

The policy states "coaches are not permitted to hold a radio during a game because they will not be cut off when the Cutoff Switch Operator engages the cutoff."

The cutoff system is engaged with 15 seconds left on the play clock or when the ball is snapped.

The Giants (10-4) won the game 10-7. The drive on which McAdoo used the walkie-talkie ended in a Dallas interception of Eli Manning.

"It was a clear violation of the rules, and we accept full responsibility and the penalty," the Giants said in a statement.

Panthers LB Kuechly: No plans to retire after 2nd concussion

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Panthers three-time All-Pro middle linebacker Luke Kuechly said Wednesday he's not considering retiring from playing football after his second concussion in as many years.

The 25-year-old has missed seven games in the past two years with concussions, including the last four this season.

Kuechly said that while he appreciates the concern friends around the league and family have for him, he says "I'm holding off that retirement word for probably a little ways down the road. ... Whenever my opportunity comes back, I will be back out there."

Kuechly defiantly said he's not concerned about the long-term effects of concussions, which had been linked to Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) in football players.

"I'm not worried about (CTE) and I think there is a lot to be learned from it," Kuechly said.

Kuechly was cleared by independent physicians to play Monday night against the Washington Redskins, but head coach Ron Rivera erred on the side of caution and held him out for at least another week.

Rivera hasn't decided if Kuechly will play against Atlanta on Saturday, or again this season.

"He wants to play, but I have told him that I have a lot of things to weigh," Rivera said.

The Panthers (6-8) have a minuscule shot at making the playoffs.

Kuechly has four years remaining on a six-year, $62 million contract he signed in 2015.

The team's first-round pick in 2012, Kuechly was injured on Nov. 17 following a collision with New Orleans Saints running back Tim Hightower.

What followed in the moments after was a frightening sight in age of increasing concussion awareness as a national television audience with Kuechly weeping uncontrollably and staring blankly ahead into the distance as he was driven on a cart to the locker room.

Kuechly said he didn't want to talk about his reaction that night.

The linebacker hasn't played since sustaining the concussion, although he continues to practice every day. He had hoped to be back on the field by now.

Rivera had initially told reporters that Kuechly would play when he was cleared by independent physicians, but then in an about-face over the weekend by saying Kuechly wouldn't play against the Redskins.

"I know a couple of weeks ago I was talking about if he's ready to go, we're going to roll him out there," Rivera said. "But I've got a lot of things to think about. I've got to make the decision that is going to be best for him and this organization going forward. I have to not make just the right decision, but the prudent decision. It's important we make very good decisions."

Kuechly, praised by defensive coordinator Sean McDermott for his high football IQ, has spent the last four games on the Carolina sidelines holding a clipboard and playing the role of assistant coach.

He's been very active on the sideline calling out assignments, teaching younger players and celebrating with teammates after big plays.

Report: Woods to be lead designer for Chicago golf project

CHICAGO (AP)—Tiger Woods has reportedly agreed to be the lead golf course designer for a $30 million project on the South Side of Chicago that would give the area championship facilities with hopes of attracting a top-level PGA Tour event.

The Chicago Tribune reported Friday that the renovation of Jackson Park and South Shore golf courses would include an 18-hole championship course, and either a short course or a par 3 course.

AP

In this Oct. 20, 2015, file photo, Tiger Woods arrives for a press conference to launch Bridgestone America's Golf Cup in Mexico City.

"This project can create incredible possibilities for the community on the South Side," Woods said in a statement by TGR Design released to the newspaper. "We want to design a course that everyone will enjoy."

A spokesman for Woods said Friday that nothing has been announced.

Woods, whose seven victories in the Chicago area include two PGA Championship titles at Medinah, first toured the area in August with Mark Rolfing, an NBC Sports golf analyst with Chicago ties.

The Tribune said Mayor Rahm Emanuel on Sunday will announce the formation of the Chicago Parks Golf Alliance, a nonprofit aimed at improving Chicago Park District courses and golf facilities, expand youth programs and raise money for the Jackson Park-South Shore project. Emanuel said "restoring these historic golf courses will create another economic and recreational asset for the South Side." The renovation would hope to be completed by 2020, though Jackson Park would remain open the next two years.

The Tribune said an initial routing plan shows the No. 1 tee would be at Jackson Park, not far from the planned $500 million Barack Obama Presidential Center. The newspaper cited unidentified sources as saying Obama became personally involved in the project and encouraged Woods to be the lead designer.

TGR Design recently opened its first domestic course outside Houston called Bluejack National.

The CPGA would partner with the Chicago-based Western Golf Association to promote a caddie program that could lead to scholarships. The WGA runs the Evans Scholarship Foundation that has helped more than 10,000 caddies attend college since 1930.

The WGC also runs the BMW Championship, a FedEx Cup playoff event for the top 70 players. The tournament will be held at Conway Farms in Lake Forest next year and at Medinah in 2019. The tournament's next open date in Chicago would be no earlier than 2021.

Woods won the BMW Championship five times when it was held at Cog Hill, a public course.

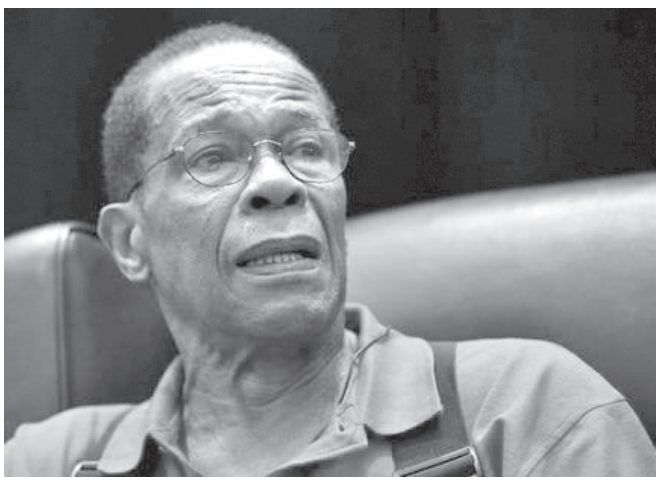
"I appreciate the support of Chicago-area fans," Woods said. "They know golf and have been a big part of my victories at both Medinah and Cog Hill. I hope this project will draw more local kids to the game in this fantastic sports town."

Hall of Famer Rod Carew has heart, kidney transplant

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Baseball Hall of Famer Rod Carew has undergone successful heart and kidney transplant surgery and is expected to make a full recovery.

The Minnesota Twins said Friday that the procedure at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles lasted 13 hours and that Carew is resting in recovery.

"We are overwhelmed with emotions right now—joy, relief, excitement and especially gratitude for all the doctors and nurses who have been with us at every step in this journey, and to the donor who made this possible," Carew's wife Rhonda told American Heart Association News. "Rod knows he's been given another chance at life and we look forward to making the most of it."



AP

In this Jan. 30, 2016, file photo, Baseball Hall of Famer and former Minnesota Twins player Rod Carew speaks to fans about his recent heart attack during TwinsFest in Minneapolis.

The 71-year-old former Twins and California Angels star had a heart attack in September 2015 and shortly thereafter had a left ventricular assist device implanted in his heart, which was a temporary fix to keep his heart going.

Doctors have told Carew that recovery from a transplant is less grueling than what he already experienced with the LVAD procedure.

He'll be on anti-rejection medicines for the rest of his life, although the risk of that happening decreases over time. The overall survival rate after transplant is about 11 years; it jumps to around 13 years once a patient survives the first year.

Carew said before the surgery that he hopes to be on the field with the Twins by spring

TSUNAMI

From Page 40

In the 50m backstroke, the PBT getters were Fiona Regan (1:04.12), Hara (1:08.00), Julia Jinang (1:08.80), Cassie Regan (1:18.62), Obligacion (42.66 seconds), Aika Watanabe (37.49 seconds), Xu (39.13), Gil (48.70), and Kim (57.50).

In other results, siblings Ashley and Aasish Dangol posted the two PBTs in the 100m butterfly after clocking in at 1:17.72 and 1:30.23, respectively. Aasish also logged one of the only two PBTs in the 100 breaststroke (1:50.11). The other one was made by Asaka Litulumar (1:38.55). Ashley, on the other hand, made two more PBTs—50m butterfly (33.45 seconds) and 200m IM (2:56.91).

The seven other PBTs in the 200m IM were registered by Shoko Litulumar (3:47.75), Obligacion (3:27.87), Aika Watanabe (3:05.76), Aasish (3:16.70), Tenorio (2:50.56), and Xu (3:05.76).

In the 200m breaststroke, both Aika and Asaka earned PBTs after timing in at 3:17.21 and 3:36.21, respectively, while Maria Batallones got a PBT in the 100m backstroke (1:45.75) and Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero had the same achievement in the 800m freestyle 11:16.20). Aika's sister, Nanaka, and Asaka added the 50m breaststroke to their PBT list after clocking in at 41.63 seconds and 43.42, respectively.

LEE

From Page 40

ing to get as many Juniors ITF points as she can in the three tournaments in New Zealand to move up to the world rankings. As of Dec. 19, Lee is ranked No. 470 in the world. She achieved her highest ranking (No. 443) in July after competing in a couple of tournaments in Fiji and New Caledonia.

"I hope I could make it to the finals of the tournaments in New Zealand so I could go up to the Top 200," said Lee, who early this month played in the men's open singles and ruled the division, beating her fellow junior players and a couple of veterans.

To prepare for her competitions in New Zealand, Lee is training with her dad Dong Min and brother Sean.

After her trip to New Zealand, the CNMI player will head to Fiji to train at the ITF facility until April or early May.

NMI

From Page 40

the 41st, while Reyes earned his first five minutes later. Pohl made it to the board in the 75th, while Reyes handed V-Kool its last goal in the fourth minute of the injury time.

NMI U16's victory in the Plate foiled Kanoa's bid for a perfect season, as the former earlier swept all its seven games in Division B of the M-League. NMI U16 placed second in the team standings after the regular season with its 5-1-1 mark.

Kanoa then extended its streak to eight when it defeated the Thundercats, 4-0, in the second round of the Plate tournament last week and advanced to the finals against NMI U16, which eliminated Shirley's Coffee Shop, 2-0.

"Going up against the unbeaten Kanoa, I told the boys that we really have to step up on defense. We have to keep pressuring them to prevent Kanoa players from making those good passes and dribbling the ball well on their way to attacking our defense," Angeles said.

"On offense, we tried to spread the floor well so we can have many options. Our defense and offense worked together so we were able to win," added Angeles, who made special mention of goalie Clayton Izuka for having several saves to shut down Kanoa.

The NMI U16 coach added that they valued more the experience than the championship they got from playing in the M-League.

"Majority of our players haven't played in the M-League so some of them were intimidated by adult players in our first few games. However, as the tournament progressed, the boys managed to adjust and keep up with these veteran players. They are no longer afraid and they improved every single match before eventually playing their best game against Kanoa last Wednesday," said Angeles, whose squad will play a visiting high school team from Japan next month for a friendly match.

Meanwhile, in the Cup championship, TanHoldings also blanked Paire, 3-0.

Martin Jambor, Hark Joshua Galarion, and Joshua Deleon scored one goal apiece in TanHoldings' title victory over fellow Division A team Paire last Sunday at the Hopwood pitch. Jambor put TanHoldings on the board in the 31st minute, while Galarion and De Leon had their goals in the 48th and 66th minute, respectively.

TanHoldings marched into the finals after slipping past Sun Palace, 2-1. De Leon and Mareko Tekopua recorded one goal each in TanHoldings' semis win, while Cosmos Kim made the lone shot for Sun Palace.

Paire, on the other hand, drew two goals from Chris Nelson and one from Peter Loken to stun fall season Division A champion MP United in the semis. Meng De Ka and Sunjoon Tenorio had goal each for MP United.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	20	8	.714	—
Boston	16	12	.571	4
New York	15	13	.536	5
Brooklyn	7	20	.259	12½
Philadelphia	7	21	.250	13

Southeast Division

Charlotte	16	13	.552	—
Atlanta	14	15	.483	2
Washington	13	15	.464	2½
Orlando	13	17	.433	3½
Miami	9	20	.310	7

Central Division

Cleveland	21	6	.778	—
Indiana	15	15	.500	7½
Chicago	14	14	.500	7½
Milwaukee	13	14	.481	8
Detroit	14	17	.452	9

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	23	5	.821	—
Houston	22	8	.733	2
Memphis	19	12	.613	5½
New Orleans	10	21	.323	14½
Dallas	8	21	.276	15½

Northwest Division

Utah	18	12	.600	—
Oklahoma City	17	12	.586	½
Portland	13	18	.419	5½
Denver	12	17	.414	5½
Minnesota	9	19	.321	8

Pacific Division

Golden State	25	4	.862	—
L.A. Clippers	21	8	.724	4
Sacramento	12	17	.414	13
L.A. Lakers	11	20	.355	15
Phoenix	8	21	.276	17

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2016 Wellness Through Basketball Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Hopwood Junior High School 4 player dribbles in front of a Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School defender during their title game in the girls 6th grade division of the 2016 Wellness Through Basketball Tournament last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

A Hopwood Junior High School 4 player unloads a jumper.

A Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School slips past her defender.

Hopwood Junior High School 4, left, and Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School players battle for possession.

A Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School player shoots in front of a Hopwood Junior High School 4 player.

A Hopwood Junior High School 4 player pulls up for a shot.

A Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School player, left, steals the ball from a Hopwood Junior High School 4 player.

A Hopwood Junior High School 4 player looks at the basket before pulling up for a shot.

Irving, James lead short-handed Cavs past Bucks, 113-102

PAGE 36

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Report: Woods to be lead designer for Chicago golf project

PAGE 38

NMI U16, TanHoldings triumph

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The V-Kool-sponsored NMI U16 Boys National Team players pose for a photo before a game in Division B of the M-League last month at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI U16 Boys National Team and TanHoldings Football Club got early Christmas presents after bringing home the Plate and Cup championships in the fall season of the M-League.

The V-Kool-sponsored NMI U16 took the Plate after shutting down Kanoa Football Club in last Wednesday's finale, 5-0, at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Rico Reyes delivered two goals in NMI U16's rout of Kanoa, while Anthony Fruit, John Michael Rojas, and Jonah Pohl added one apiece. Fruit drew first blood for the Plate champion after finding the back of the net in the 35th minute. Rojas then gave the Jersh Angeles-coached NMI U16 its second goal in

See NMI on Page 38

Tsunami Saipan swimmers mark 51 PBTs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers collected 51 personal best times during the 2016 Northern Mariana Island Swimming Federation Meet 3 held early this month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The most PBTs (excluding the five age group marks posted by Isaiah Aleksenko, Aika Watanabe, and Juhn Tenorio) were recorded in the 50m freestyle and 100m freestyle events with 10 apiece, while nine and eight were made in the 50m backstroke and 200m individual medley, respectively.

In the 50m freestyle, the PBT getters in the girls U8 were Sakura Hara (56.67 seconds) and Fiona Regan (58.82). Seiyul Hong (41.57 seconds) and Angelie Tobias (59.17) had the same feat in the girls 9 to 10 age group, while boys U8's Keisuke Asakura (1:15.82), boys 9 to 10's Sean Gil (36.50), Kean Pajarillaga (46.06), and Alex Kim (52.59), and boys 13 to 14's Nelson Batallones (30.62) and Kevin Guerrero (43.10) also got PBTs in the sprint.

Nelson's sister, Maria logged a PBT in the 100m freestyle after submitting 1:30.91. Other swimmers in the girls field who posted PBTs in the two-lap race were 9 to 10's Shoko Litulumar (1:34.22) and Seiyul (1:43.61), 11 to 12's Ayumi Obligacion (1:36.93) and 13 to 14's Aika Watanabe (1:12.83).

In the boys division, Pajarillaga also made a PBT with his 1:39.32, while Hans Xu (1:16.15), Tenorio (1:10.17), Dan Illahi (1:38.75), and Guerrero (1:34.83) duplicated that feat.

See TSUNAMI on Page 38

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tsunami Saipan's Aasish Dangol competes in the 100m breaststroke race during the 2016 Northern Mariana Island Swimming Federation Meet 3 held early this month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Lee to join 3 Juniors ITF tourneys in NZ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee will be busy at the start of 2017, as three Juniors ITF tournaments in New Zealand await her.

Up first for Lee, who will leave Saipan on Jan. 8 to join the Pacific Oceania Touring Team in New Zealand, is the 2017 Wilson Tennis Canterbury ITF in Christchurch. The Commonwealth player's first competition for the New Year will run from Jan. 17 to 22 and it is a Grade 4 tournament, which awards 40 and 30 ranking points to the singles and doubles champions, respectively.

Palau's Ayana Rengiil and Fiji's Mulan Kamoe will join Lee in the Wilson Tennis Canterbury ITF, which has the Switzerland's Lulu Radovcic as its highest-ranked player in the acceptance list at No. 109. Forty-six players from around the world are on the acceptance list, while 26 are on the alternate roster.

For her second tournament, Lee will head to Wellington to participate in the 2017 Tecnifibre Tennis Central Championships, another Grade 4 event. The competition in Wellington will take place at the Renouf Tennis Centre from Jan. 23 to 28.

From Wellington, Lee will go to Auckland for the NZ ITF Summer Championships 2017, which will be played at the Scarbro Tennis Centre from Jan. 30 to Feb. 4. The CNMI junior player's final tournament in New Zealand is a Grade 3 event, which awards 60 points to the singles champion and 50 to the doubles winners.

Lee, who just turned 15 last Wednesday, is hop-

See LEE on Page 38

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee gets ready to serve during her and Steven Goodwin's doubles game against Jeff Race and Isabel Heras in the 8th TanHoldings Tennis Classic held early this month at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.